MANAGEMENT PLAN

April, 1999

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for Naikoon

BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Naikoon

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
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BC Parks

Naikoon

Management Plan

Approved by:

H Markides Date: 3 May 99

Hugh Markides
District Manager

Denis O'Gorman Date: 99.05.26

Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister

Cathy McGregor Date: _____

Cathy McGregor
Minister

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to release the Management Plan for Naikoon and would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the members of the Naikoon Study Team who worked with BC Parks staff to prepare this plan. This management plan provides direction for managing the protection of Naikoon's important values in a manner that is respectful of Haida traditions and local uses.

I am particularly encouraged by the willingness of local citizens, Haida Councils, and BC Parks staff to work together in the on-going stewardship of Naikoon, one of British Columbia's most precious protected areas. The management plan provides solutions to many difficult issues, ranging from vehicle use of Naikoon's beaches to defining education and communication programs to achieve better understanding among protected area visitors. These solutions, I am pleased to note, were generated largely through the knowledge and contributions from local citizens of Haida Gwaii which augers well for sustaining the ecological integrity of Naikoon.

Throughout the Naikoon management planning process, BC Parks has received and incorporated important Haida information into the plan. In August of 1996, BC Parks presented the draft management plan to the Skidegate and Old Masset Village Councils and requested comments from Council members. The Councils would like opportunities to comment on aspects of implementation of the management plan as needed. Therefore, in approving this management plan, I am approving the direction for BC Parks to "develop longer-term cooperative arrangements with the Haida concerning the planning, management and operation of Naikoon" (Section 3, Naikoon Management Plan). I am also supportive of the formation of a Naikoon advisory committee to provide local knowledge and advice to BC Parks staff as this plan is implemented.

Cathy McGregor
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks

Province of
British Columbia

Minister of
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Lands and Parks

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This document is without prejudice to the positions of the Haida Nation or the Province of British Columbia on issues related to ownership or jurisdiction.

In this document, the area identified by the Province as a Provincial Park is an area called "Naikoon".

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Acknowledgments

This plan was prepared by a team of staff from Northern B.C. Regional Planning Services, the Skeena District, Victoria Headquarters, a volunteer Study Team, and the Haida. Comments, discussions, and suggestions from the general public and interest groups also provided important information for this plan.

Guujaaw and Michael Nicoll, Yahgulanaas provided Haida cultural and historical information and reviewed comments of draft plans. Advice and comments on draft management plans were provided by the Council of the Haida Nations, the Old Massett Village Council and members of the Skidegate Council.

The project was directed by Hugh Markides, District Manager for the Skeena District. Under the direction of the District Manager, Dan Adamson, Planner, coordinated the project and prepared this plan. Gord MacDonald, Zone Manager of the Skeena/Charlotte Zone (until 1995), Gerry Ferguson, Area Supervisor for Naikoon Park (until 1995), Al Midnight, Area Supervisor (after 1995), and Roger Norrish, Management Plan Coordinator in Victoria provided much assistance and expertise. Ted Frechette, Manager, Research Services and Brian Dyck, Senior Research Officer prepared the public questionnaire and summary. Sean Sharpe, Resource Officer (until 1994), Robin Draper, Operations Officer (until 1995), Mike Murtha, Manager Planning Services, Gail Ross, Visitor Programs Officer (until 1995), and Jovanka Djordevich, Visitor Services Technician (until 1995) all contributed to the preparation of this plan.

BC Parks would also like to give special recognition to the members of the public who volunteered to be on the Study Team or assisted at various stages of preparing this plan. The following people were participants on the Study Team or contributed to the preparation of this plan:

Jim Abbott	Arnie Bellis	Rodney Schatz
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BC Parks would like to thank Bill Lefeaux-Valentine for the excellent manner in which he facilitated two important Study Team meetings. Finally, BC Parks acknowledges the contributions made by members of the public and interest groups who took time to participate through open houses, public meetings, questionnaires, and written comments

Plan Overview

This management plan establishes priorities for managing Naikoon in order to strike a balance between peoples' enjoyment of the area and protecting important natural and cultural values. As well, this management plan establishes principles for developing and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships between BC Parks, the Haida, and local residents. Enhancing BC Parks relationship with the Island community will lead to a broader commitment to stewardship and the wise use of Naikoon.

The primary emphasis is on identifying the types of information that are most important to obtain so that we have a better understanding of how best to manage Naikoon's natural and cultural resources, features, and processes. In broadening our understanding of Naikoon, we will be in a better position to ensure that Naikoon's natural and cultural values are maintained for future generations. There is little planned in the way of major facility development with the exception of working with local groups to improve hiking opportunities to interior portions of Naikoon. Providing information to the public about Naikoon's cultural and natural resources, processes, and features is a high priority so that these intrinsic values are understood, appreciated and respected.

It is difficult to predict how the growth in the tourist sector will affect Graham Island, but there is a need to ensure that, while visitor numbers to Naikoon will likely continue to increase, the essential character of Naikoon will be maintained as it is today. This management plan's objectives and strategies are in keeping with this overall intent.

Plan Highlights

- Naikoon conserves ecological diversity of a portion of the lowlands of Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii. This area contains outstanding natural features such as Rose Spit-Naii Kun, extensive sandy beaches, dune formations, wetland systems, forest communities, and important mammal, bird and fish habitat.

- Naikoon is an area steeped in Haida history and continues to play a dominant role in the day to day lives of Haida citizens. The area continues to provide cultural, spiritual, economic, and subsistence values. Colonial settlement and agricultural attempts in Naikoon area also an interesting component of the history of the area.

- The Vision Statement for Naikoon highlights a priority for seeking to maintain Naikoon as it is today. There are no priorities identified for additional roads or road upgrades and although some replacement of damaged facilities may occur (e.g. Agate Beach campground), there are no plans for new major facility development.

- Over 90 percent of Naikoon is maintained as wilderness where signs of human use are kept minimal and facilities for backcountry recreation are limited and rustic. Most human activities are concentrated to the beach fringes of Naikoon where vehicle access is available.

- Priorities for preparing specific management plans for vegetation, wildlife, and fish are identified. Mapping

will be prepared to identify important wildlife habitats. A project is identified to address the effects of beaver on terrestrial and aquatic habitat within Naikoon's interior water systems. Wildlife inventory work is also identified for species that are listed as sensitive, rare or endangered.

- Strategies for managing Naikoon are to be compatible with the intended purposes of the Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves. Direction is given for preparing detailed management plans for the Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological reserves.

- Cooperation with other agencies, such as the Fish and Wildlife Branch, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Sport Fishery Advisory Board will be sought in undertaking such projects as a fishery assessment and a fisheries management plan for Naikoon.

- The Island community contributes to the majority of Naikoon's use and they enjoy its opportunities year round. During the summer months, tourists to Naikoon increase in numbers and often the campgrounds are full. The importance of Naikoon to these people is a major consideration to the area's management. Cooperation with the Haida is an essential component of successfully implementing this management plan.

- The beaches of Naikoon will be shared by people both with and without vehicles. Driving on Naikoon's beaches has long been an important part of the experience of Naikoon, particularly for the Island community. For the most part, vehicle use on the beaches below high tide line does no apparent damage to the natural environment. This management plan provides strategies for managing this activity on an on-going basis with the Island community in order to meet Naikoon's conservation and recreation objectives.

- Tlell Beach and Agate Beach are identified as "closed to vehicles" during the summer months to provide areas close to the campgrounds where people can enjoy a beach area away from mechanized uses. A "courtesy beach" is identified along South Beach during July and August where lower levels of vehicle use is encouraged for the summer months. This strategy maintains vehicle access for North and East beaches where the activity is most important to the Island community.

- The management plan provides strong guidance for involving the Haida Nation and the public in the stewardship of Naikoon. For example, a local volunteer group (e.g. Naikoon Advisory Committee) will be formed in order to formalize a link between BC Parks and the public in the on-going stewardship of Naikoon.

- Increasing awareness and understanding of Naikoon's natural, cultural, spiritual, and historical values is a high priority. This information and communication initiative can encourage a wider understanding of the reasons for avoiding recreation activities in sensitive areas, such as a bird habitat. In this way, information can lead to a greater

involvement in Naikoon's stewardship by people who use the area.

- To deal with Naikoon's private property inholdings, BC Parks will examine the opportunities for removing areas of Naikoon with low conservation and recreation values for the purpose of land exchanges for inholdings with higher conservation or recreation values.

Section One

What is a Management Plan?

Introduction

A management[1] plan is prepared by BC Parks for guiding how a park will be managed over a ten year term. It sets out objectives and actions for conservation, development, interpretation, and operation of a park. A management plan relies on current information relating to such things as natural resources, cultural activities, recreation uses, and activities occurring on surrounding lands. This information is available from park managers, discussions with other governmental agencies, previously prepared reports, study teams, public interest groups, and from the general public.

The process for preparing a plan involves a rigorous analysis of the overall goals of the park, patterns of use, management objectives, and possible sources of conflict among park policies. Through the process various options for managing the park are developed and assessed. In choosing the most appropriate options, the intent is to reach a balance between protecting the natural resources from damage (conservation) and managing human uses of the area (cultural activities, recreation).

Although every large park will have a management plan prepared, the timing for preparation can depend on many factors. For example, the priority for a management plan can be increased if there are serious management issues that need to be resolved.

[1] When this project began, this document was called a "master plan". BC Parks now refers to master plans as management plans. Thus, this plan's text was changed to use this current language.

Management plans provide strategies to deal with immediate issues, but must also set direction for long-term strategies. This means that the plan will generally contain numerous statements describing management actions that will need attention. Since BC Parks cannot carry out every task at the same time, the plan must also rank the priority of the management actions.

BC Parks prepares management plans with a high degree of public involvement. The general public and public interest groups have opportunities to provide comments to BC Parks through a variety of means including public meetings and questionnaires. In the planning process for Naikoon, there was assistance from the Haida and by a local volunteer study team.

Each section of the management plan provides a brief summary of relevant background information. More detailed information can be obtained from the Naikoon Management Plan Background Document which has been prepared separately.

This management plan is presented in eight main sections:

1. the context of the plan is discussed with a summary of background information on Naikoon;
2. the role of Naikoon and a vision statement are presented. These provide the general essence of the importance of Naikoon and the critical goals and principles that provide the long-term foundation for its management;
3. relationship with island community;
4. the plan presents Naikoon's zoning which defines in general terms how different areas will be managed;

5. the objectives and actions for managing human activities that may affect the natural and cultural aspects are then discussed;
6. the plan discusses the objectives and actions for providing outdoor recreation opportunities and for providing information about Naikoon;
7. the communications strategy is presented; and,
8. the priorities for implementing the management actions are presented.

Approval of this management plan forms an agreement between BC Parks and the public regarding how Naikoon will be managed. In essence the plan is a working document with a set of documented strategies and priorities that have been agreed to and in this way the plan has an important monitoring role.

Relationship With Other Land Use Planning

Management planning processes provide a mechanism for public review, discussion, and support for management strategies. In this respect, Naikoon's management plan must be considered in terms of its relationship with broader conservation and recreation goals for Haida Gwaii, the province, and with other land use strategies.

Additions to Naikoon have been suggested by the public through the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s process. This process was initiated in December 1990 by BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests to identify study areas that would be considered for park or wilderness designation. In 1992, the Parks and Wilderness for the 90's process evolved into the Protected Areas Strategy to provide a much more comprehensive analysis and direction for protecting natural, cultural and recreation values. The target for this process is to develop and expand a system of protected areas that will conserve 12 percent of the province by the year 2000. The public submissions for park additions are now being dealt with through this process rather than the management planning process.

This management plan provides information about Naikoon's management that is relevant for other federal and provincial government agencies such as the Ministry of Forests, the Fish and Wildlife Branch, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Information in this plan will assist in a cooperative approach to managing Naikoon's boundary areas and its wildlife and fish resources.

How This Plan Was Prepared

Reason for the Plan

The previous management plan for Naikoon was completed in 1983. It was prepared without public involvement and a number of policies such as the management of vehicle beach use are out of date. Since the time of the 1983 management plan, camping use in Naikoon has doubled and day use has tripled in number. A current management plan is needed to deal with resource management issues and with increasing recreation demands on Naikoon.

Start Up

During the spring, summer and fall of 1991, BC Parks began compiling background information about Naikoon's resources and patterns of visitor use (figure 1). A draft background document was prepared by a team of local consultants supervised by Moore Resource Management of Queen Charlotte City. As well, BC Parks prepared the Terms of Reference for the project. By December 1991, a volunteer Study Team was formed comprising of local residents and covering a variety of interests. BC Parks also met with representatives of the Haida to discuss the management planning process and to gain their support and involvement in the project.

The Study Team plays an important role by providing local knowledge and perspectives on various interests and concerns about how Naikoon is managed. The Study Team operates as an advisory board, giving advice to BC Parks and reviewing material prepared through the planning process. Study Team meetings began in January of 1992 and initially dealt with reviewing background material and a questionnaire, defining issues, and helping to prepare for public meetings.

The Study Team meetings were put on hold over the spring and summer, because the Haida Nation had concerns about being involved in a process that may be taken, as endorsing the provincial park status and prejudicing Haida title. In September 1992, a Tripartite Agreement between Canada, British Columbia, and First Nations that included Haida representatives, decided that the matter of land title dispute would be dealt with through the BC Treaty process.

The Naikoon planning process restarted in December of 1992.

Public meetings were held in January 1993 at Sandspit, Queen Charlotte City, Skidegate, Massett, Old Massett, and Port Clements. The meetings provided a forum for people to express their views about various issues concerning Naikoon and to hand out a questionnaire and background information. In order to increase the general awareness of the planning process, ads were put in local and provincial newspapers and information packages and questionnaires were mailed out to Island residents and to provincial recreation and conservation organizations. All responses to the questionnaires, letters, and comments were reviewed by BC Parks and the Study Team.

Preparing the Draft Management Plan

In April 1993, the Study Team met over an entire weekend to review public information and to develop and discuss options which address Naikoon's issues. The intent was to come to an agreement on preferred options that would be written into the draft management plan.

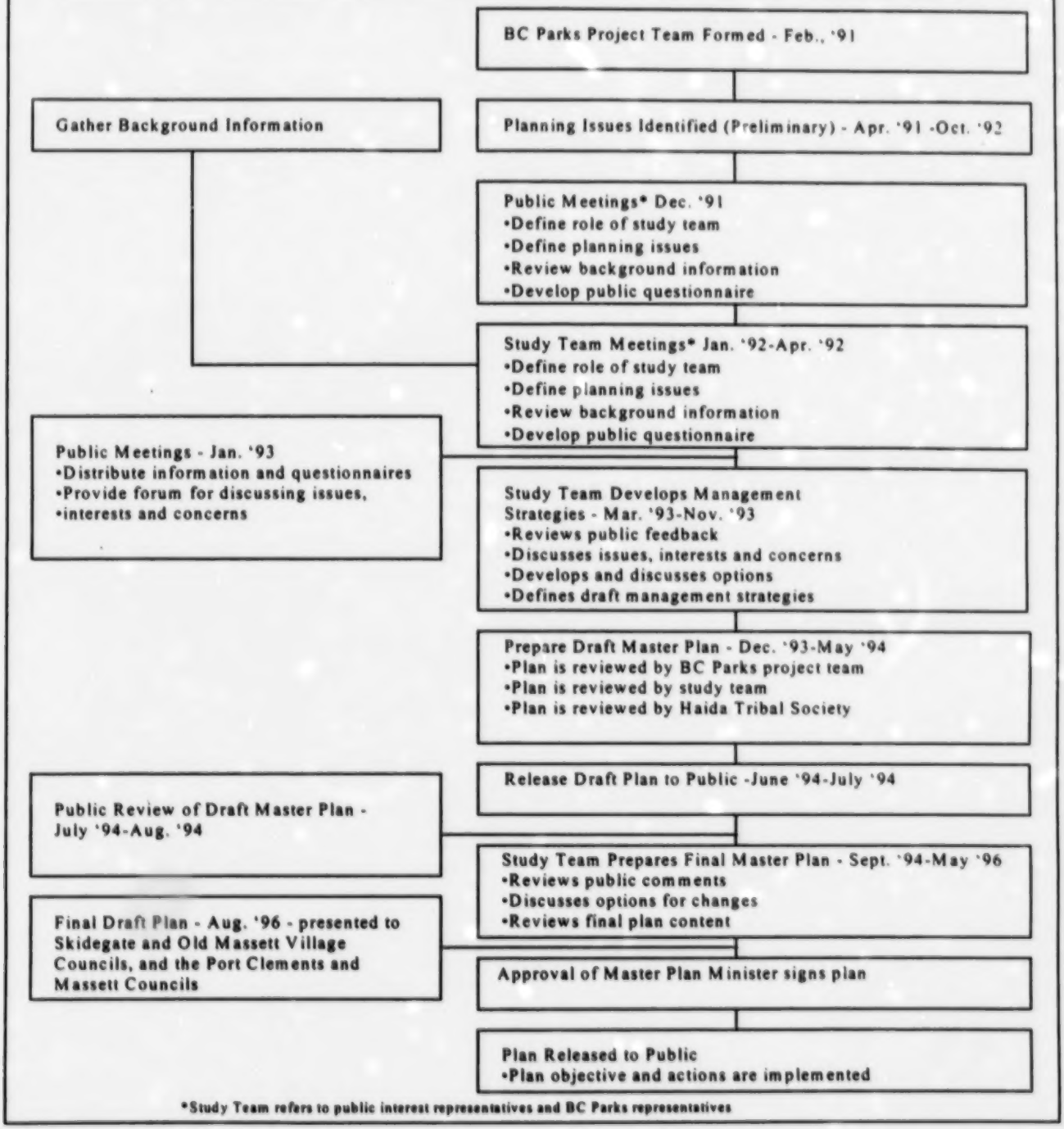
By October 1993 the draft management plan was ready for review by various BC Parks staff knowledgeable in resources management, visitor services, interpretation, outdoor recreation, and Ministry policies and regulations. The intent of the internal review was to ensure that the contents of the plan conform with the *Park Act* and Regulations, is compatible with current policies, and that it contains realistic objectives and management actions.

The draft was sent to the Study Team in November 1993 for their review and comment. Between November 1993 and March 1994, the Haida Tribal Society was asked by the Council of the Haida Nation to review the draft management plan and the society prepared a report with suggested revisions and detailed information of Haida history and culture relating to Naikoon. By May 1994, a second draft was sent to the Study Team for a review before being released to the public. In June 1994, the draft management plan was released to the general public for review. Copies were sent to everyone who attended the public meetings, to provincial organizations, and to anyone responding to newspaper and radio ads announcing the plan's release.

During the summer and fall of 1994, BC Parks received and reviewed comments on the draft management plan and met with interest groups and the Haida. During 1995, BC Parks was active with a newly elected council of Old Massett Village. While the new council reviewed the prepared draft and offered advice and comment to BC Parks, there were parallel negotiations proceeding to enter into a cooperative management agreement with the Old Massett Village Council. Entering into cooperative management agreements with First Nations is relatively new for BC Parks and the negotiations can be complex. As such, the preparation of the final draft management plan was delayed.

By February 1996, the final draft management plan was ready to be reviewed by the Haida, the Study Team, and BC Parks Headquarters staff. Final meetings were held with the Study Team and the Haida Councils during the summer of 1996 in order to ensure there were ample opportunities to review and comment before the final plan was delivered to BC Parks' Minister for approval.

Figure 1: Preparing the Final Draft Plan


BC Parks Project Team Formed - Feb., '91
Gather Background Information
Planning Issues Identified (Preliminary) - Apr. '91 -Oct. '92
Public Meetings* Dec. '91
•Define role of study team
•Define planning issues
•Review background information
•Develop public questionnaire
Study Team Meetings* Jan. '92-Apr. '92
•Define role of study team
•Define planning issues
•Review background information
•Develop public questionnaire
Public Meetings - Jan. '93
•Distribute information and questionnaires
•Provide forum for discussing issues,
•interests and concerns
Study Team Develops Management Strategies - Mar. '93-Nov. '93
•Reviews public feedback
•Discusses issues, interests and concerns
•Develops and discusses options
•Defines draft management strategies
Prepare Draft Master Plan - Dec. '93-May '94
•Plan is reviewed by BC Parks project team
•Plan is reviewed by study team
•Plan is reviewed by Haida Tribal Society
Release Draft Plan to Public -June '94-July '94
Public Review of Draft Master Plan - July '94-Aug. '94
Study Team Prepares Final Master Plan - Sept. '94-May '96
•Reviews public comments
•Discusses options for changes
•Reviews final plan content
Final Draft Plan - Aug. '96 - presented to Skidegate and Old Massett Village Councils, and the Port Clements and Massett Councils
Approval of Master Plan Minister signs plan
Plan Released to Public
•Plan objective and actions are implemented

*Study Team refers to public interest representatives and BC Parks representatives

Background Summary

Introduction

The name "Naikoon" (meaning long nose) comes from the Haida name "Naii Kun" for House Point (area also known as Rose Spit). As throughout all parts of Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands, Naikoon has a long history of occupation and use by the Haida people and figures prominently in their present lifestyle and their history. There are many places of cultural and spiritual importance as well as historic village sites and important food sources throughout Naikoon.

Colonial settlement of the area began in the early 1900s, encouraged by the government in Victoria declaring free Crown Grants. Settlers ambitiously drained wetlands for farming and to raise cattle. The majority of these ventures failed to prosper due to the expense of land clearing and bog drainage, high transportation costs to unreliable Canadian markets, and isolation from friends, family, and neighbours. Many settlers left to serve in World War I and many never returned to their homestead. Only a handful of settlers remained after the Great Depression of the 1930's. A number of these early settlement lots are still privately owned and interesting evidence of this period of settlement can still be found today.

The Provincial Government designated Naikoon as a Class A Provincial park in 1973 covering an area of about 72,000 hectares comprising a mixture of coastal temperate rainforest ecosystems, wetlands and bogs, sand dunes and almost 100 kilometres of beaches. Also within Naikoon are unique natural features such as Tow Hill, important bird and other wildlife habitat, and rare and highly specialized plant species. Naikoon lies entirely within the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecoregion.

Naikoon attracts tourists and local residents looking for a variety of recreational opportunities. People spend most of their time near the ocean, enjoying camping and picnicking, beach walking or driving, overnight hiking trips, fishing, hunting, bird watching, and terrestrial and marine wildlife viewing.

There are also some pleasant recreation opportunities away from the ocean and beaches. These include walks through lush temperate rainforests and peat bogs, boating, camping and picnicking on Mayer Lake, and fishing in a number of Naikoon's rivers.

Naikoon's Natural Features and Values

Naikoon lies entirely within the wet hypermaritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone. Much of the interior is a continuous series of raised bogs interspersed with wetland forest communities. These areas support an interesting array of mosses, lichens, liverworts and herbs as well as "bonsai" trees and shrubs.

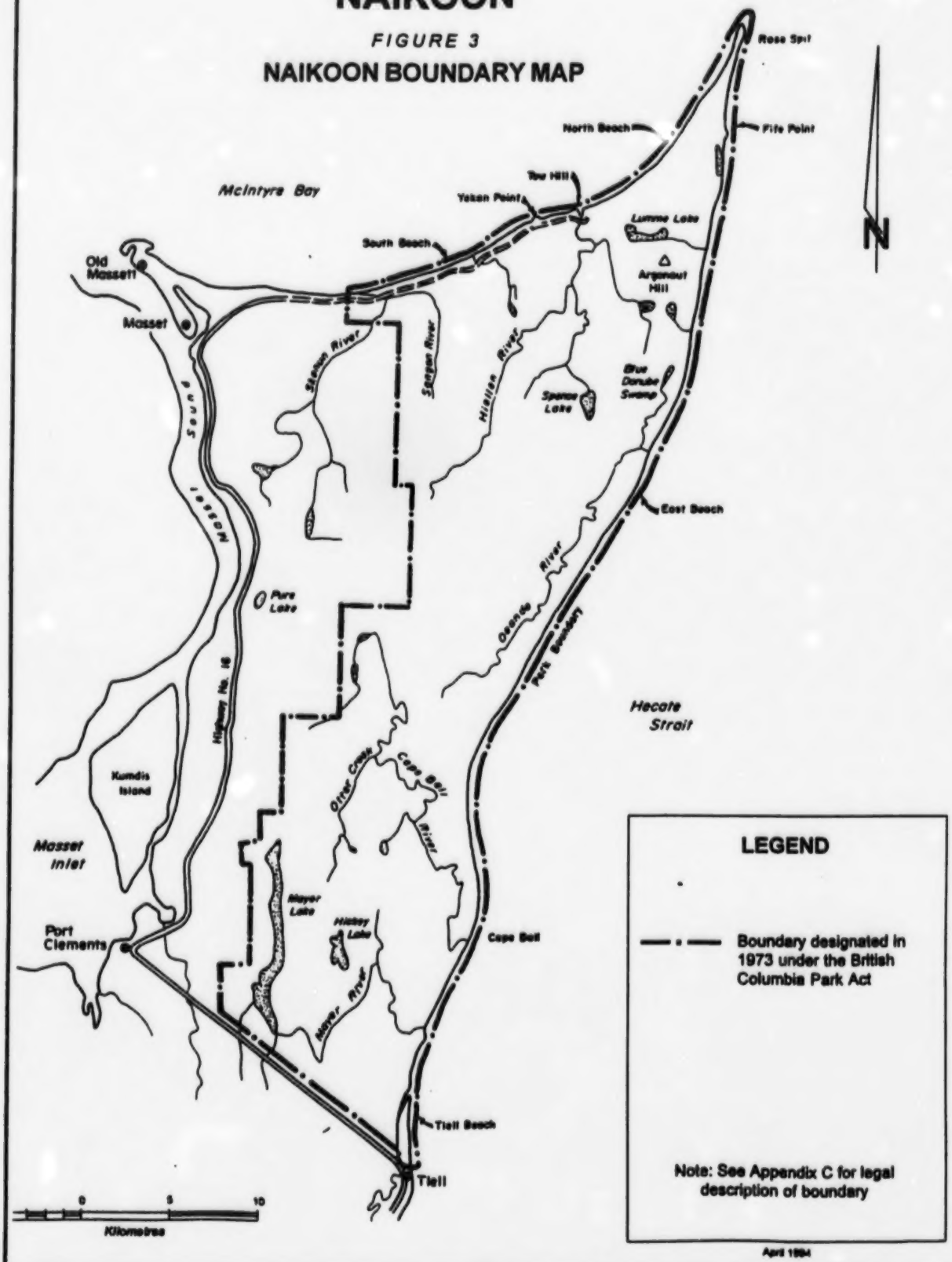
Closed canopy climax western hemlock forest make up a relatively small proportion of Naikoon's area. Along the sandy shoreline there is a distinctive forest community affected by salt spray and

Figure 2 LOCATION OF NAIKOON

NAIKOON

FIGURE 3

NAIKOON BOUNDARY MAP



dominated by Sitka spruce. A number of unusual, rare or highly specialized plants occur throughout the sand dunes and wetlands.

Throughout this mosaic of forest and vegetation communities, birds and wildlife find important habitat. An estimated 170 different species of birds occur in Naikoon and 46 of these species breed in the area. The range of habitat from beaches to grassy meadows to old growth forest invites a diversity of species that is unusual within such a relatively small area.

The diversity of land mammals on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii is low compared to the adjacent mainland. However, the isolation of the islands has led to the evolution of distinct subspecies of most of the native mammals, including the black bear, marten and the weasel.

There are no reptiles and only one native amphibian, the Western toad, known to occur in Naikoon. Little is known about Naikoon's invertebrates, but dragonflies, damselflies and a number of ground beetle species are known to occur in Naikoon. A number of marine mammals, such as the Gray, Humpback and Orca (Killer) whales, and seals and otters can be seen in the nearshore and offshore of Naikoon.

Eleven species of fish occur in Naikoon's freshwater lakes, rivers and streams. These range from salmon species and sculpins to lamprey and sticklebacks. Extensive research on sticklebacks has been carried out within Naikoon and the adjacent Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve.

There are a number of introduced species inhabiting Naikoon. These include black-tailed deer, beaver, raccoon, muskrat, red squirrel, rats, tree frogs, pheasants and feral cattle, dogs and cats. Virtually all of these introductions have altered the natural ecosystem of Naikoon. As well, some plant species have been introduced, including grasses, and broom and thistle plants.

A number of important natural features and values are protected within Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves. These include representations of dune ecosystems, and ancient beaches, low elevation bogs and old-growth forests, rare plants, and important bird nesting sites. These Ecological Reserves are set aside, under the *Ecological Reserves Act*, for scientific research and other specialized protection.[2]

Naikoon's Cultural Values

Naikoon features prominently in the origins, development, and institutions of the Haida (see figure 4). The powerful landscape and dynamic governing systems of the Haida are combined in the creation of proprietary symbols world renowned for their artistic qualities. Village sites throughout Naikoon include: Naii Kun'llnagaay (on the East Coast); Tsaawaagiis 'lannee (near Naii Kun); Xuyaa gandlaa 'llnagaay (Raven Creek Town); and, "Laanaas (at Cape Ball). Features such as Tao (Tow Hill) and Naii Kun (House Point or Rose Spit) figure prominently in historical accounts of Haida origins. Places such as Yuda'lgans (halibut

[2] Ecological Reserves are designated to preserve representative examples of B.C.'s ecosystems; protect rare and endangered species in their natural habitat; preserve unique, rare, and outstanding botanical, zoological, and geological phenomenon; and, perpetuate important genetic resources.

banks to the north of Naii Kunn) provide food.

These examples are only a small sample of the Haida history of Naikoon. There are compelling reasons for BC Parks and the Haida to work together to accurately present this world view with visitors to Naikoon.

Naikoon has interesting links to colonial history and aging physical evidence such as wagon roads, drainage ditches, and remnants of a wooden railway line still remain today. Although gold prospecting, the fur trade, and free Crown Grants of land were the initial draws to the area, agriculture was the attraction for many of the early colonists. Other ventures such as fish canneries, tourist accommodations, placer mining, and forestry also brought settlers to the area.

Recreation in Naikoon

The most intensive use of Naikoon occurs along North Beach and in the Tlell area. Naikoon is used year round by the Island community, while tourism is limited to the summer months. Most people are attracted to Naikoon for its camping, beach walking, wildlife viewing, fishing, scenery, and enhancement of their lifestyle. The beaches offer natural collectable treasures such as scallops, razor clams, sea shells, and some not-so natural collectibles such as flotsam and jetsam. Nearby trails into the forests of Naikoon offer a scenic "get-a-way" for part of the day. Naikoon's sandy beaches extend for great distances. Vehicle use on these beaches enables quicker access to remote beaches, such as East Beach, and also enables people to visit the beaches in cool, wet weather. For some other people, the beaches provide a place for a relaxing, "back-to-nature" experience without vehicles.

Since records have been kept, from the mid-1980s, campground use in Naikoon has been steadily increasing. To accommodate this use, 12 new campsites were added to Agate Beach campground. Day use to the beaches, trails and picnic spots have also been increasing steadily since the mid-1980s.

Lands Excluded From Naikoon

Notwithstanding the issues related to jurisdictional dispute between the Haida and the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, there are 35 surveyed lots, widely distributed throughout Naikoon that are occupied or held by private persons (see Land and Resource Tenure section). BC Parks does not control what occurs on these private lots, but the *Park Act* does not allow private road development across park land to access private lots. Rezoning and subdivision proposals for private inholdings within Naikoon, are administered by the Regional District and referred to BC Parks for comment.

There are two Old Massett "Indian Reserves" within Naikoon[3]. One at the Hiellen River which is 28.5 hectares, and one at Yakan Point which is 34.8 hectares.

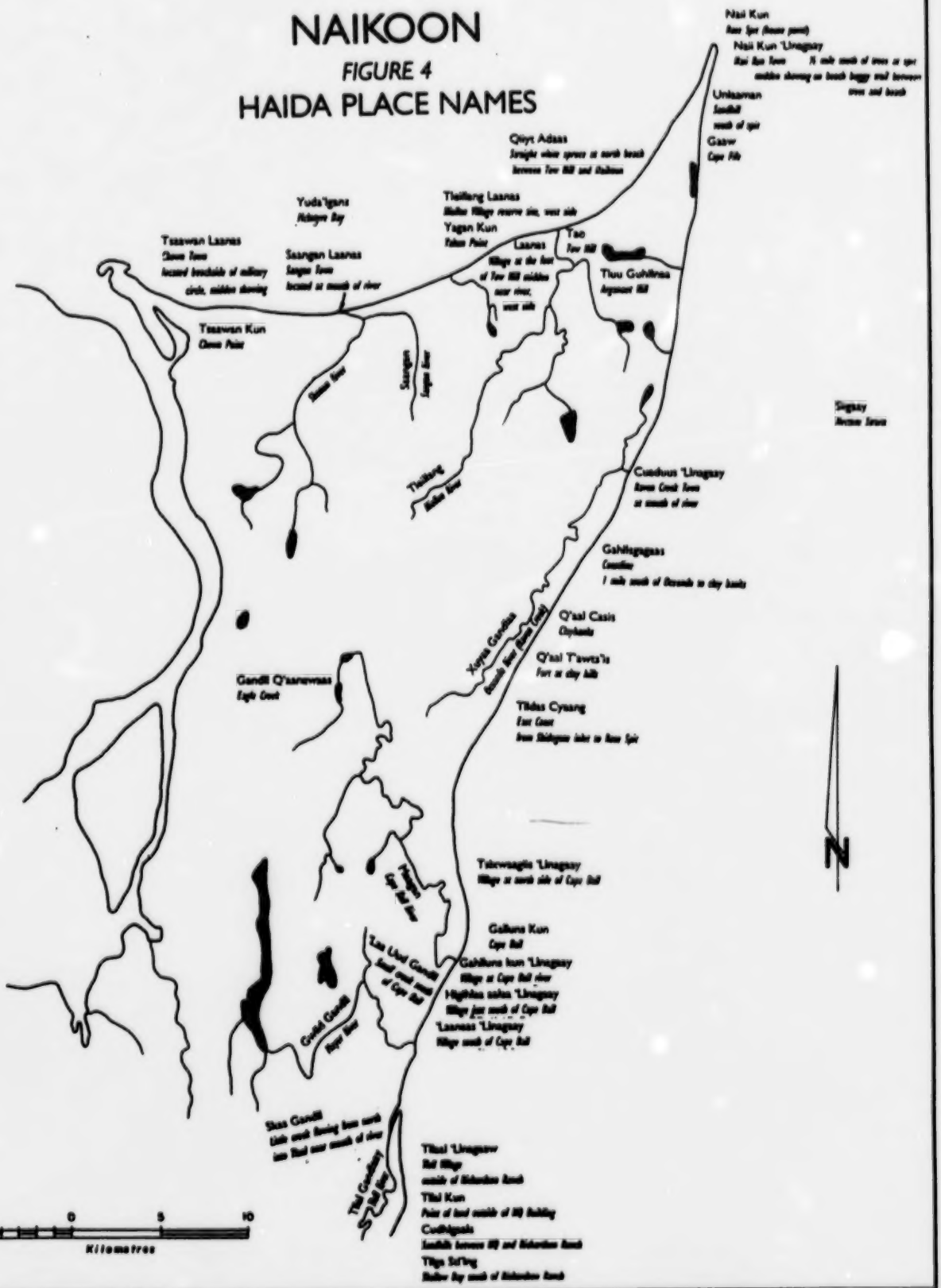
The Tlell Cemetery is located off Beitush Road, and has been used since 1942. There

[3] The Old Masset Village Council has not been party to the designations of reserves and are only recently beginning treaty negotiations with Canadian and British Columbia governments. "Indian Reserves" do not reflect the Haida Nation's assertions of ownership over Haida Gwaii.

NAIKOON

FIGURE 4

HAIDA PLACE NAMES



is a portion of one trapline territory within the southern Naikoon area, but it is inactive and therefore no Park Use Permit is issued.

When Naikoon was designated by the provincial government in 1973, its foreshore boundary excluded most of the razor clam beds, which are managed by the Department of fisheries and Oceans and the Haida nation for commercial harvesting.

Section Two

The Role of Naikoon

Regional and Provincial Context

Naikoon protects the ecological diversity of a portion of the lowland areas of the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii. The lands provide food, cultural, and outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and tourists. In addition to conserving ecosystems and wildlife habitat, Naikoon also protects special natural and cultural features.

To properly understand the role of Naikoon in conservation and recreation, one needs to acknowledge the different ways people view the area. Naikoon's significance can be viewed in two general contexts: the local resident and the provincial context. It is important to recognize that there are broad generalizations made when discussing these contexts.

For Island peoples, Naikoon is an important economic, inspirational, and personal area. While Naikoon occupies an exciting historic cultural space, it continues to make important contributions to the lives of people who compose the Island community. This historical association with the area is particularly long for the Haida and the strong connection between the Haida people and the Naikoon area continues. Although Naikoon is currently less important as a homesteading area, the other values maintain their importance today and there continues a strong connection between local residents and Naikoon. For many residents, they want to continue to use Naikoon the way they have been, without significant changes or damages to its natural character. This view of "keeping things the same" is a common local perspective of conservation.

In the context of regional and global systems of protected areas, Naikoon makes important contributions to the unique and special types of ecosystems and natural physical processes. As well, Naikoon provides a special destination for recreation, complementing tourist visits to the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii. Within the provincial context it is common to find support for a high level of protection and for managing Naikoon conservatively to ensure the natural and cultural values are maintained.

Conservation Role

- Naikoon conserves ecosystems and biological diversity of the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecoregion and Ecosection. Naikoon encompasses about 21 percent of the total area of the Ecoregion and also lies entirely within the wet hypermaritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone.

- Protects important historical and cultural features of the Haida. These features include: ancient Haida village sites connected by trail systems; weir sites; river trap sites; stations for netting, gaffing, spearing and harpooning; shellfish beds; crab, chiton, and other marine food sources; food preparation and processing sites; hunting areas and stations; bird trap areas; vegetation gathering and preparation sites; non-vegetative material gathering and processing sites; ceremonial, religious and first-food sites; initiate preparation sites; and, gathering places as well as repository sites for the dead; guardian spirit questing sites, and; sites for

spiritual cleansing, paraphernalia repository, and medicinal gathering and treatment.

Additionally, there are places associated with narratives, stories, boundary markers, legal and ideological landforms, transportation or departure sites, meteorological analysis sites, super natural areas, private secular sites, recreation areas, conflict areas and other events associated with oral narratives.

- Protects colonial-period features including aging remains of roads, a wooden railway, homesteads, cleared areas and drainage ditches from early farmers and the remains of the Pesuta shipwreck.

- Approximately 90 percent of Naikoon is zoned as wilderness. In these areas, effects of visitor use on natural aspects will be minimized and natural processes are allowed to continue as much as possible.

- Protects a number of provincially and nationally significant features including:
  - ⇒ Rose Spit-Naii Kun which is the largest spit formation in British Columbia;
  - ⇒ extensive sand dunes and beaches comparable in size to any in Canada and British Columbia;
  - ⇒ the best examples of Sitka spruce dune forests in British Columbia;
  - ⇒ Gahlans kun/Cape Ball cliffs which is the earliest post-glacial site known on the British Columbia coast, dating back 16,000 years and providing evidence for possible glacial refugia on the archipelago;
  - ⇒ Tow-Toa Hill which is a columnar basaltic rock outcrop scoured by glacial ice into a classic roche moutonne; and,
  - ⇒ provincially significant bogs with assemblages of mosses, lichens, liverworts, and herbs.

- Conserves important wildlife and habitat including:
  - ⇒ occurrence of the Marbled Murrelets, a "threatened" seabird (COSEWIC, 1990);
  - ⇒ one of the major concentrations of nesting Greater Sandhill Cranes in British Columbia;
  - ⇒ the Haida weasel, the rarest of the island's endemics, listed as a "vulnerable" sub-species;
  - ⇒ occurrence of *Mertensia maritima*, a rare sand dune plant;
  - ⇒ the unarmored stickleback, which is listed as a "threatened" species; and,
  - ⇒ the largest wintering population of Sanderling in British Columbia.

- Protects three (Cape Ball, Oeanda, and the Hiellen rivers) coastal temperate rainforest watersheds.

Recreation Role

- Frontcountry camping, beachwalking and hiking through coastal forests are available for local residents and tourists.

- Day use opportunities are available such as trail walks through forests, beachcombing, picnicking, bird-watching, whale-watching and exploring marine, forest, beach and bog environments.

- Naikoon has opportunities for backpacking hiking trips along the beaches which can be planned for one day or multiple days. The East Beach hike, in excess of 100 kilometres, is a destination backpacking opportunity primarily for tourists. The loop route from Tow Hill to Cape Fife to Rose Spit and back to Tow Hill generally takes between one to three days and is becoming increasingly popular.

- A number of productive freshwater and intertidal rivers are available for anglers, including the Tlell River. The lower section of the Tlell River has the potential to be accessible to Special Needs people because it is road accessible and its banks are gently sloped.

- Hunting opportunities for introduced species, such as deer, are popular for both residents and visitors.

- Hikes are available along old wagon roads that are now rustic trails leading into Naikoon's interior for interpreting ecological and geomorphological processes as well as Haida and colonial history.

- Viewing opportunities from the top of Tow Hill provide an impressive overview of North Beach.

Vision Statement

The vision statement looks forward to describe the character of Naikoon ten to fifteen years from now. Being clear about the long-term vision helps to guide what should be done in the short-term. The vision statement is an important guide when reacting to changing demands in recreation or incorporating new approaches to conservation management. Avoiding reactions to new recreation demands or new management initiatives, without first looking at the "larger picture" and looking at the long-term affects, is a priority.

A Vision For Naikoon

Ten to fifteen years from now, people visiting Naikoon will notice that its overall character has changed little from today. The campgrounds will be slightly larger to accommodate increased tourist numbers to the Island and there will be additional trails through portions of Naikoon's interior.

The significant changes will be ones that are not readily apparent. The management of Naikoon will evolve over the years to reflect the important connection of Naikoon with Island residents and the Haida. A number of Island residents will be part of a committee sharing their knowledge and advice on the stewardship of Naikoon. Annual information meetings will be held with interested Island residents to discuss the on-going implementation of the management plan. Agreements with the Haida to cooperatively manage Naikoon form a solid foundation for its stewardship and enhance community support for management initiatives.

An important focus of management over the next decade and beyond will be to increase awareness about the values of the natural and cultural values, to work cooperatively with the Island community in protecting the features, and to expand the level of interpretation of Naikoon's cultural and natural features. Naikoon is carefully managed to balance the important conservation interests with tourist and local use of the area.

Knowledge of Naikoon's resources will increase. Inventories of vegetation communities, bog ecosystems, and wildlife will be undertaken. Naikoon will continue to attract research projects which help to develop appropriate management strategies. Into the twenty-first century, introduced species will be managed more effectively and Naikoon's wildlife and ecosystems will be more naturally balanced.

Increasing demands placed on Naikoon for recreation have meant that some management initiatives have been put into effect to protect the environment and natural values. These initiatives are in keeping with the management plan and have been developed with the Haida under the cooperative management agreement and with advice from residents. Working cooperatively with the Island community develops support and understanding for management initiatives.

Naikoon continues to be an important part of the lifestyles of the people on the Island and residents have a sense of stewardship and pride in Naikoon. This special place continues to play a role in protecting, for future generations, some of British Columbia's and North America's most valuable examples of our natural and cultural history.

Section Three

Managing with the Island Community

Managing with the Island Community

Introduction

The intent of this section is to describe the ways in which the Island community has involvement in the implementation of this management plan for Naikoon. The Island community means the collective residents of all the communities on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii or, as some like to call it, the archipelago.

There are two parts to this section. Firstly, the relationship with the collective Island community is discussed. Secondly, the relationship with the Haida is discussed since this has specific implications relating to cooperative agreements.

Relationship with the Island Community

The Island community, both Haida and non-Haida citizens, consider Naikoon to be extremely important to their lifestyle. Although the numbers of tourist visiting Naikoon are significant and increasing annually, year-round use of Naikoon by Island residents contributes to the highest proportion of visitor numbers.

While Naikoon is managed for conserving and enjoying special values of interest to British Columbians, management must also be compatible with the Island community's uses and interests in Naikoon. This community must play an integral role in the stewardship of Naikoon by continuing to use it wisely, providing informed knowledge and remaining diligent to the activities of those less informed.

Naikoon provides a role in fostering links between BC Parks and the Island community. BC Parks will benefit from the advice and expert local knowledge found among residents interested in the on-going management of Naikoon.

Objective

- To foster a cooperative relationship between BC Parks and the Island community in the stewardship and use of Naikoon.

Actions

- Coordinate the establishment of a local advisory group (e.g. "Naikoon Advisory Committee") comprising volunteers from local communities and representing a variety of interests to assist in the on-going stewardship of Naikoon. The intent of forming this group is to develop and maintain strong links between BC Parks and the Island community. The group of volunteers can assist in such ways as: alerting BC Parks of upcoming issues; providing local expertise, knowledge, and perspectives on planned management initiatives; and, assisting in the development of interpretation and communication strategies. The group can have a significant effect on the success of education campaigns about wise use of Naikoon and protection of important values and features.

- Recognize the Tlell Fall Fair as a significant event of which Naikoon can play an important role. The traditional area of Naikoon used annually for the

fair will continue to be provided and BC Parks will work cooperatively with the Graham Island Farmers Institute towards the continued success of the fair. The institute will have first priority in terms of scheduling for the Tlell Fall Fair. BC Parks will investigate proposals for cooperatively developed structures that will benefit community interests and BC Parks.

- Provide periodic updates to the public about on-going management initiatives, special projects, or interesting information relating to Naikoon. This can be done either through the use of local media sources or by prepared newsletters. The intent is to keep the Island community informed about the year to year management of Naikoon. An advisory group for Naikoon can play a significant role in this initiative.

Relationship with the Haida

For the purposes of this management plan, the Haida or Haida Nation is understood to consist of three essential councils. There are two Village or Band Councils which are mandated by their respective communities to attend the needs of infrastructure and administration responsibilities. The Council of the Haida Nation is mandated by all persons of Haida ancestry, the citizens, to undertake the protection of all ancestral homelands of the Haida Nation, called Haida Gwaii. This Council represents the interests of the Nation on land and sea related issues with special references to resolving the outstanding title dispute with Canada and British Columbia.

There is a need to develop and maintain a good understanding and working relationship between BC Parks and the Haida to cooperatively work towards the stewardship of Naikoon. To accomplish this goal BC Parks will seek cooperative management arrangements with the Haida. Developing and maintaining a good understanding and working relationship between BC Parks and the Haida, encourages cooperation towards the stewardship of Naikoon. Solid lines of communication foster sensitivity towards each other's interests and will build trust. The participation of the Haida in the preparation of this plan is one example where cooperation has been beneficial.

Objective

To develop long-term, cooperative arrangements with the Haida concerning the planning, management, and operation of Naikoon.

Actions

- Develop cooperative management arrangements with the Haida concerning the planning, management and operation of Naikoon. Where formal agreements are not in place, maintain communication links with Haida councils.

- Acknowledge historic and contemporary living cultural activities in Naikoon, such as hunting, food gathering and access to village sites.

- Ensure that BC Parks has support from the Haida prior to preparing, releasing, or displaying any information relating to Haida culture or history.

- Develop ways with the Haida to incorporate Haida language and cultural symbols in interpretive and other kinds of information about Naikoon.

- Ensure that when information about staff hiring for Naikoon is sent out, that such information is also available to Haida communities.

Section Four

Zoning Plan

Park Zoning

Introduction

Naikoon is zoned to identify a range of management objectives. At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of Naikoon that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicates an area of Naikoon that receives the highest level of conservation and minimal human presence. Between these two ends, there are three additional zones providing a range of conservation and recreation priorities. Details of the zoning descriptions are in Appendix A.

Based on Naikoon's features, its objectives for recreation and conservation, and its vision statement, it has been divided into the following zoned areas (figure 5):

- Wilderness Recreation Zone covering the interior and East Beach and encompassing about 62,000 hectares;
- Special Feature Zones covering important Haida archaeological and cultural sites;
- Natural Environment Zone encompassing about 7,500 hectares and covering South and North Beach, most of Mayer Lake, and the area along the highway; and,
- Intensive Recreation Zone covering the Tlell portion, the south end of Mayer Lake, and the Agate Beach-Tow Hill area and encompassing about 1,960 hectares.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

This zone covers the majority of the interior of Naikoon and the East Beach area. The objective of this zone is to provide a high level of protection for the bog ecosystems, the old growth forests, and fish and wildlife habitat. Inside this zone, a high priority will be placed on conserving the natural environment while providing a level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment.

Within this zone, hunting, trapping, and wildlife management projects to control introduced species are acceptable activities. It may be necessary to enhance and manipulate the habitat of native species in order to counteract the effects of introduced species.

Vehicle driving below the high tide line along East Beach is recognized as a non-conforming use within this zone and will be managed according to the Access Strategy in this plan. There will be minimal development for recreation in order to maintain the wilderness character of the area.

Generally, within the Wilderness Recreation Zone, natural processes such as wildfire are not interfered with unless necessary for protecting facilities or public safety in Naikoon or forest resources adjacent to Naikoon. In Naikoon there is limited information on vegetation and wildlife processes as well as the effects from

introduced species on the natural ecology. Detailed vegetation and wildlife management plans (see Vegetation and Wildlife sections) will be prepared to give greater guidance on long-term management strategies.

Special Feature Zone

This zone covers known Haida archaeological and cultural sites. Future identified archaeological or cultural sites will be covered by this zone. Site identification research will be undertaken only if approved by the Haida. Special Feature zones covering archaeological sites are indicated by a symbol on the map so that the specific locations of the sites are not identified to the general public.

The Special Feature zones will be managed with a high level of protection in mind. Access to certain sites may be restricted and many sites will not be identified to the general public. The full record of these sites will be considered confidential knowledge, owned by the Haida, and made available to the provincial government and the public at the Haida's discretion. No recreation development or promotion for recreation will be undertaken for these areas, however, interpretive and educational facilities may be appropriate if approved by the Haida.

Natural Environment Zone

This zone covers the North and South Beach areas, the area surrounding Mayer Lake (excluding the southern portion of the lake area), and the area adjacent to the highway. The intent of this zone is to manage for a higher level of recreational use than is provided for in the Wilderness Recreation Zone. Facilities will be provided where necessary to maintain the natural environment and where they will enhance recreation opportunities. The intent is to ensure that facilities do not dominate the natural setting. The zone provides a transition area between the highly visited and developed areas of Naikoon and the undeveloped wilderness areas of Naikoon.

Vehicles will be allowed on the beaches below the high tide boundary and along designated routes and roads as indicated by the strategies set out under the Access Strategy section of this plan. Tow Hill Road passes through this zone.

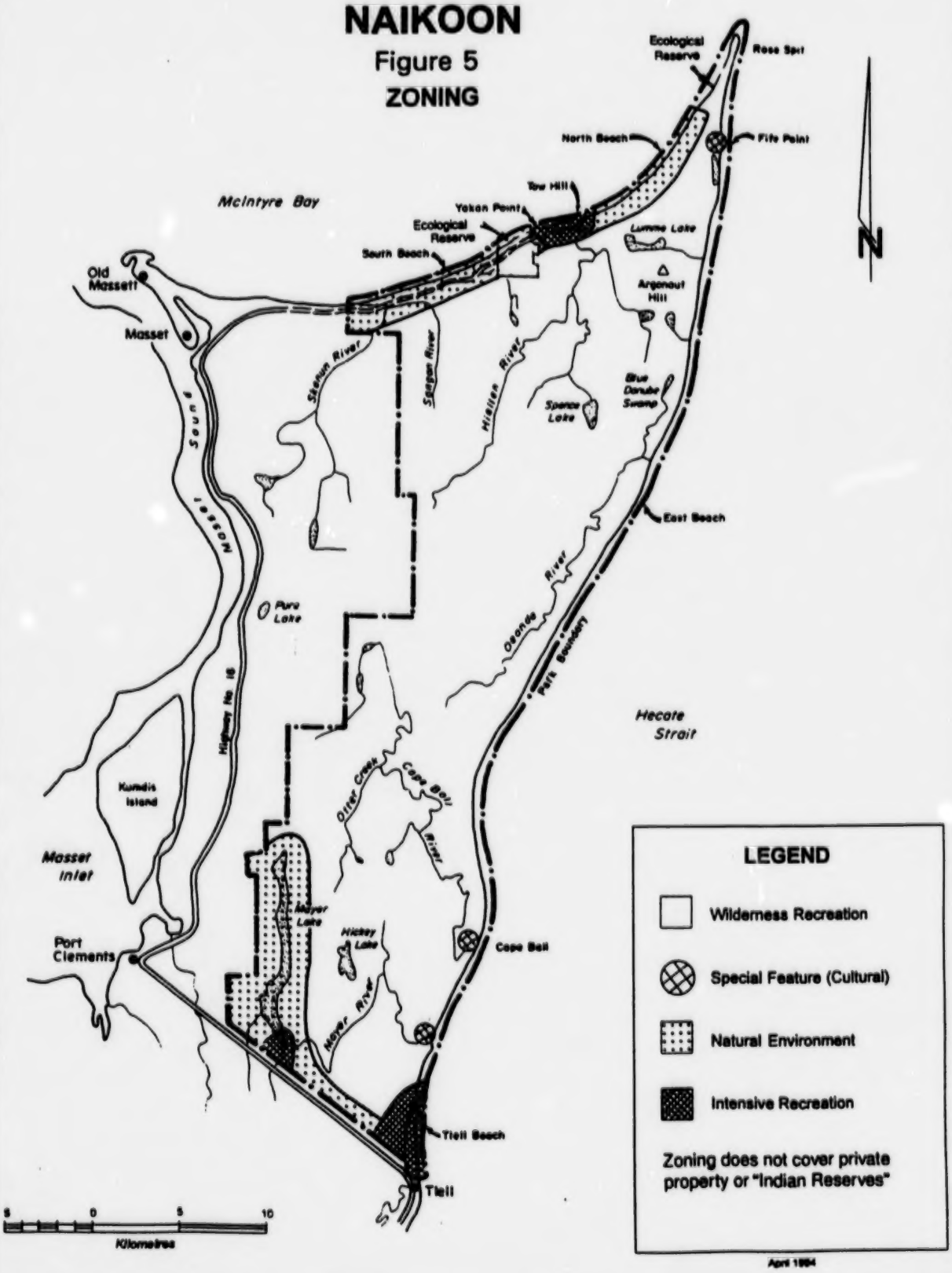
Intensive Recreation Zone

The zone covers the three highly visited and developed areas of Naikoon: the Tow Hill-Agate Beach area, the south end of Mayer Lake; and, the Tlell-Misty Meadows area. This zone covers campgrounds, day use areas, the headquarters at Tlell, viewing platforms and trails, and parking lots. In this zone, visitors have opportunities for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented recreation and interpretation opportunities. While development is aimed at managing a high number of visitors, the setting will be maintained in as natural state as possible.

NAIKOON

Figure 5

ZONING



Section Five

Natural and Cultural Values Management

Protecting Natural and Cultural Values

Introduction

Naikoon was designated by the provincial government in 1973 to conserve over 100 kilometres of beaches and a large area of the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecoregion comprising sand dunes, bogs, wetlands, and coastal temperate rainforest. The central principle in managing the 72,641 hectares of Naikoon is to conserve the natural and cultural environment, ecosystems and wilderness character while managing for compatible outdoor recreation activities. This section of the management plan builds on this central principle by outlining objectives and management actions to provide general guidance on how resources and features should be managed and identifying priorities for undertaking detailed management plans. There are three important themes within this section:

1. Activities in Naikoon need to be compatible with objectives to conserve the natural and cultural values;

2. Management will balance the interests of human use in harmony with the interests of conservation; and,

3. More information on Naikoon's natural and cultural values is needed to better understand and identify priorities for management and protection.

Land and Resource Tenures

There are 22 parcels (35 lots) of private property within the boundaries of Naikoon (see Figure 6). BC Parks may purchase private inholdings when they become available for sale. Purchase is dependent, however, on the availability of government land acquisition funds and if the purchase serves the public interest.

There are no means of controlling or limiting development on private lands except through Regional District zoning. The *Park Act* does not allow roads to be built across park land to provide access to these lots.

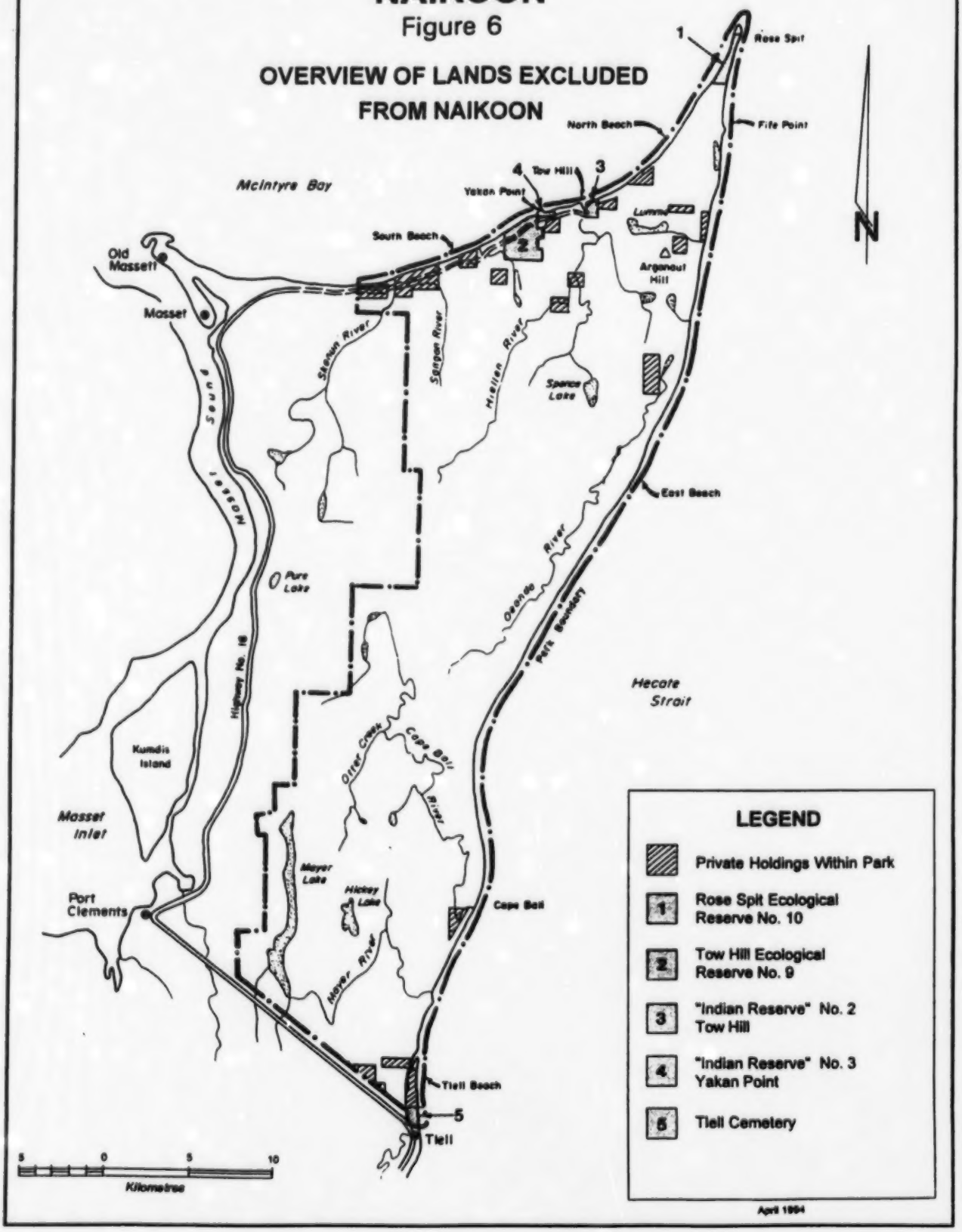
Most lots are used for residential purposes or are vacant. A private lot within Naikoon's boundaries holds the Tlell Cemetery and a couple of lots along Tow Hill Road are used for commercial establishments such as bed and breakfasts.

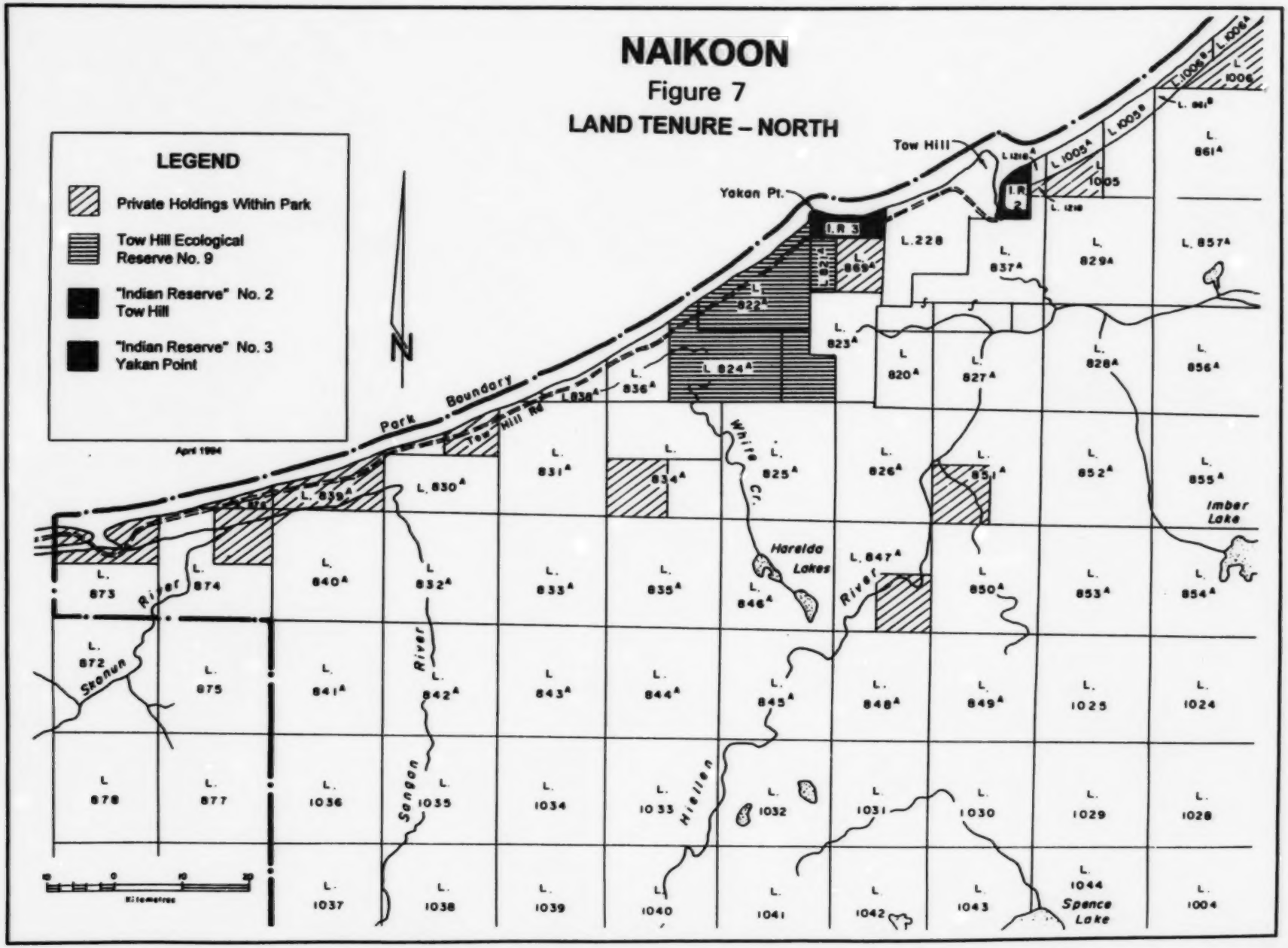
Timber values have increased substantially over the past few years and certain individual land owners are interested in logging. However, in most cases the land is surrounded by Naikoon and the *Park Act* prohibits road access to the properties. Purchase of these properties is becoming unlikely because of the high timber values and so other strategies to acquire property are being investigated. In one case, BC Parks is interested in exchanging a private inholding with high timber values with land of comparable value outside of Naikoon. This strategy is difficult because of the shortage of Crown land and will likely only be viable in rare cases. Other strategies are needed to deal with this on-going issue.

NAIKOON

Figure 6

OVERVIEW OF LANDS EXCLUDED FROM NAIKOON

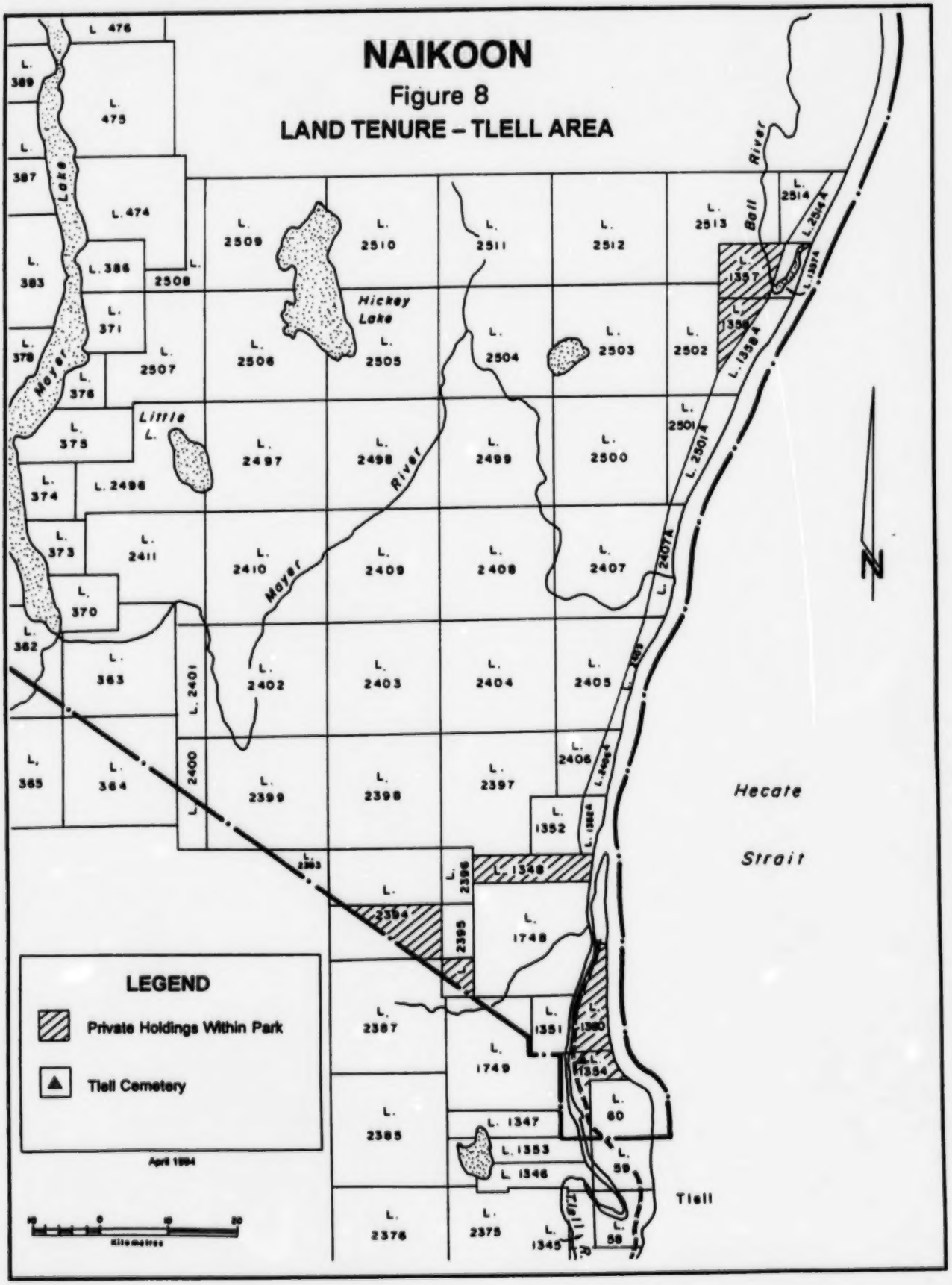



NAIKOON
Figure 7
LAND TENURE – NORTH
LEGEND
Private Holdings Within Park
Tow Hill Ecological Reserve No. 9
"Indian Reserve" No. 2 Tow Hill
"Indian Reserve" No. 3 Yakan Point
April 1984
N
Park Boundary
Tow Hill Rd
Tow Hill
Yakan Pt.
I.R. 2
I.R. 3
L. 1216A
L. 1005A
L. 1005B
L. 1006A
L. 1006
L. 1005
L. 1218
L. 861A
L. 857A
L. 829A
L. 837A
L. 228
L. 822A
L. 869A
L. 822A
L. 823A
L. 824A
L. 836A
L. 838A
L. 820A
L. 827A
L. 828A
L. 856A
L. 831A
L. 834A
L. 825A
L. 826A
L. 851A
L. 852A
L. 855A
L. 830A
L. 839A
White Cr.
Imber Lake
Harelda Lakes
L. 847A
River
L. 873
L. 874
L. 840A
L. 832A
L. 833A
L. 835A
L. 846A
L. 850A
L. 853A
L. 854A
L. 872
Skonun
L. 875
L. 841A
River
L. 842A
L. 843A
L. 844A
L. 845A
L. 848A
L. 849A
L. 1025
L. 1024
L. 878
L. 877
L. 1036
Sangan
L. 1035
L. 1034
L. 1033
Hiellen
L. 1032
L. 1031
L. 1030
L. 1029
L. 1028
L. 1044
Spence Lake
L. 1037
L. 1038
L. 1039
L. 1040
L. 1041
L. 1042
L. 1043
L. 1004
Kilometres

NAIKOON

Figure 8

LAND TENURE – TLELL AREA



There are also part-time residents and other private developments in Naikoon that are under a Park Use Permit where the land is not privately owned but rather leased from the Crown. The Park Use Permits are renewed as long as the terms and conditions of the permit are adhered to.

The two Old Massett "Indian Reserves"[4] within are both located off the Tow Hill Road. The Hiellen "Reserve" is located at the end of the road and the Yakan Point "Reserve" is just east of Yakan Point. Several homes have been built on Yakan Point.

There are two road rights-of-way within Naikoon that are maintained by BC Highways. These include portions of the Tow Hill Road and the entire length of Beitush Road. The roads are narrow and the Tow Hill Road is subject to periodic flooding. Debate continues about upgrading the roads versus retaining their picturesque character. BC Parks continues to encourage road maintenance and upgrading that has minimal effect on the scenic qualities of the roadway.

Angling guide licences are issued annually by BC Environment and Park Use Permits are also required for licences issued for Naikoon. There are currently no Park Use Permits for this commercial activity. There are also no guided hunting territories covering Naikoon.

BC Parks issues Park Use Permits for trapline tenures that were established before the designation of Naikoon. A section of one trapline within Naikoon was purchased by BC Parks in September 1993. There is a trapline in the Tlell area but has not been active and is not under Park Use Permit. BC Parks has a general policy of acquiring traplines if owners wish to sell and funds are available to purchase. Aboriginal rights to trap, as with other traditional activities, are honoured in Naikoon.

Actions

- Attempt to negotiate the purchase of private inholdings as they are available for sale and BC Parks has available funds. Properties are considered for acquisition if they: 1) are planned to be developed for private, commercial or industrial uses; 2) have high conservation values; 3) have high recreation values; and, 4) the purchase would demonstrate efficient use of acquisition funds.

- Examine areas of Naikoon with low conservation and recreation values which may be considered for removal from Naikoon for the purpose of land exchanges for inholdings of high conservation and recreation values.

Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves

Ecological reserves are areas set aside to protect representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The principal uses of ecological reserves are for scientific research and educational purposes. They are not established or developed for recreation use. The two ecological reserves were designated under the *Ecological Reserve Act*

[4] The Haida consider "Indian Reserves" to be administrative boundaries and have not been party to their designation. The reserves do not reflect the Haida's assertions of ownership over Haida Gwaii.

and are not considered part of Naikoon as they are legally separate entities. However, it is important to consider them in the management of Naikoon. Both ecological reserves at Naikoon were designated by the provincial government in 1971 (Figure 9).

The Tow Hill Ecological Reserve, situated to the west of Yakan Point, is 514 hectares. It protects a broad expanse of hard sand beach, a wide foreshore, a backshore of dunes and ancient beaches, and low elevation bogs and old-growth forests in its interior. The Tow Hill Road bisects the reserve.

The 170 hectare Rose Spit Ecological Reserve protects unique plant communities and rare plants associated with dunes, coastal coniferous forests and bogs. A rare (blue listed) plant, the sea bluebell (*Mertensia maritima*) is in the reserve. There is also important bird habitat and other wildlife habitats. A narrow corridor is currently identified through the reserve to allow vehicles to travel between North Beach and South Beach. Vehicle traffic is not allowed under the *Ecological Reserve Act* and, therefore, this is an issue. Because of the importance of vehicle use to the local residents, it has been important to allow access while at the same time protecting the reserve's important values. For the most part, vehicle users are respectful and they stay within the identified corridor.

Both of the Ecological Reserves are important Haida sites and will be managed in terms of their cultural values as well as their ecological values. An important Haida village site was located at Rose Spit (Naii Kun - House Point) until near the end of the last century, by which time epidemics had lead to the abandonment of the village.

Separate detailed management plans are required for the ecological reserves in order to provide specific strategies for protecting their important ecological, historical, and cultural features and values and for undertaking research, monitoring, and studies. A higher priority is placed on preparing a plan for the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve since it is affected by recreational use more than the Tow Hill reserve. Ecological reserve management plans will be prepared in cooperation with the Haida. In the interim, prior to these plans being prepared, this management plan provides general guidance for their management. This management plan and the two ecological reserve management plans will be compatible.

Objectives

- To ensure the ecological reserves are the best sites and are managed to satisfy the *Ecological Reserve Act*.

- To ensure the objectives of this management plan complement the protection of the Tow Hill and Rose Spit ecological reserves.

Actions

- Evaluate Naikoon to determine if there is a more appropriate site to represent the same features found within the Tow Hill Ecological Reserve. The current reserve site is bisected by a road and is affected by recreation use. Another site is an option since this reserve is representative of habitat found elsewhere in Naikoon.

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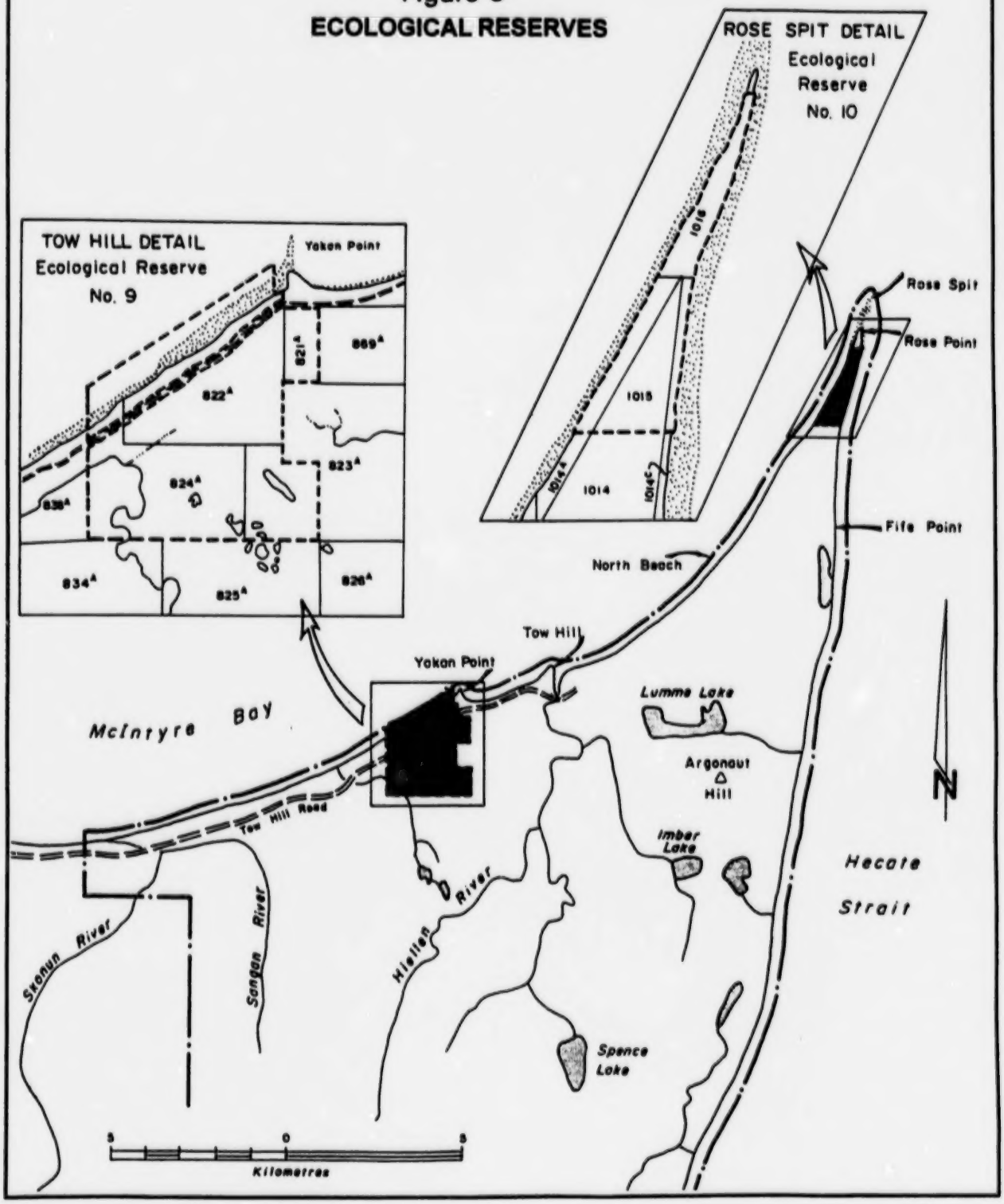
Figure 9

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES



- Remove the historic access corridor from Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, while ensuring that the corridor remains part of Naikoon Park. Once part of Naikoon Park, designate the historic corridor for vehicle access. BC Parks will work with the local volunteer group (see Relationship With Local Residents section) and the four-wheel drive club to develop strategies to ensure people keep to the defined route in order to avoid damaging sensitive habitat and dune vegetation communities.

- BC Parks will inform the public of the intent of Ecological Reserves and that they are not intended for recreational use.

- Manage important and sensitive sites with a high degree of interest for protection as described in the Vegetation, Wildlife, and Physiography sections of this plan.

- Prepare, in cooperation with the Haida and with involvement of the local volunteer group, management plans for Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves. The management plans provide long-term management strategies to ensure the cultural and ecological integrity of the reserves. The plans will deal with the following:
  - ⇒ Identify research and study priorities including:
    - ◊ possible effects introduced species are having on native species;
    - ◊ establishing sample plots to monitor long-term changes in dune and upland vegetation;
    - ◊ inventory of vegetation and wildlife; and,
    - ◊ establishing exclosures to monitor natural regeneration of damaged sites.
  - ⇒ Identify and rank strategies for dealing with non-intended uses that may be affecting the reserves.
  - ⇒ In cooperation with the Haida, document cultural and historical values of the ecological reserves.

Water

Naikoon has numerous freshwater and estuarine features and contains the entire watersheds of the Cape Ball, Oeanda, and Hiellen rivers. Mayer Lake is also within Naikoon as are a number of small lakes, and thousands of shallow bog pools. The water resources are important components of Naikoon's ecosystems and also enhances recreation opportunities.

The low relief of the interior of Naikoon means that there is little definition between watersheds. Some watersheds have been altered by introduced beaver and some streams which formerly drained east now drain to the north.

Freshwater waterways such as the Tlell and Skonun Rivers and Drizzle and Otter Creeks flow into Naikoon. This means that activities along these waterways that affect water quality or quantity can affect water resources within Naikoon.

Over half of Naikoon's boundary parallels the high tide line, extending 660 feet from that line into the waters of Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait. Other interfaces with marine waters occur at river and stream

outlets into the ocean, such as the Tlell River. In these areas estuarine environments are created.

Objective

- To maintain the natural quantity and quality of the water resources and their associated ecological processes in Naikoon

Actions

- If feasible, undertake a study to determine how beaver are affecting waterways and their associated ecosystems (see Wildlife Management Section).

- Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.

- Work cooperatively with forest companies, the Haida Forestry Branch, and the Ministry of Forests to minimize negative effects from logging on water resources flowing into Naikoon from adjacent areas.

Vegetation

Vegetation contributes to wildlife habitat and also to Naikoon's visual and recreation values. Naikoon is entirely within the wet hypermaritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone and within the Queen Charlotte Lowlands Ecosection.

Much of the interior of Naikoon is a continuous series of raised bogs interspersed with swamp and bog forest communities. Along the sandy shoreline there is a distinctive forest community affected by salt spray and dominated by Sitka spruce. Closed canopy climax western hemlock forests make up a relatively small proportion of Naikoon's area although good examples of the majestic moss and lichen festooned coastal temperate rainforest do occur. Forests dominated by alluvial Sitka spruce occur as ribbons along the major stream channels.

A Vegetation and Biodiversity Assessment report for Naikoon, prepared in 1992, identified significant vegetation features. The report describes the role played by wind and fire disturbances in influencing the natural character of the forests. Certain forest types seldom develop to old age due to wind disturbances. Fire, because of the wetness of much of the area, has largely been confined to the western hemlock, western redcedar, and Sitka spruce stands in the southern areas of Naikoon.

Human history has and continues to affect Naikoon's forests. Clearing, drainage ditches, cleared property lines, and old trails from early colonial settlement are still evident. The introduction of plants and plant pests also raises implications for indigenous fauna. The possibility that vehicles traveling to the Island has or will introduce pest species into the terrestrial or marine portions of Naikoon requires specific planning attention. European Millfoil is an example from other parts of the province where there are serious impacts of vegetation weed species on indigenous plant communities and recreation opportunities.

The meadows and clearings in the Tlell area of Naikoon are a direct result of the long history of grazing which occurred until as recently as 1988, when changes to the highway status ended free ranging of cattle

and horses in Tlell. Much of this formerly grazed area is reverting back to Sitka spruce forests.

Objectives

- To manage for current vegetation patterns and habitat for native species while information is being gathered about disturbance regimes and effects of introduced species.

- To increase knowledge about disturbance regimes, the presence of rare species, vegetation communities, and effects of introduced species.

- To protect rare, endangered or sensitive plant communities and species as they are identified while discouraging the establishment of non-native vegetation.

- To encourage public appreciation and scientific research of dune vegetation, old growth forests, and wetland vegetation.

- To maintain a portion of the meadows in the Tlell area for habitat diversity, cultural values, and recreation.

Actions

- Control major fire and insect infestations that threaten rare and unique vegetation communities, commercial forests or developments outside of Naikoon, or facilities. As guided by current policy, all fires will be subject to initial attack either by Ministry of Forests or BC Parks. Once the likely effects of the fire are assessed (based upon such information as its intensity, the current environmental conditions, and its likely path and range) a decision is made whether or not to allow the fire to run its natural course. This applies to the Wilderness Recreation Zone. Within other zones, all fires will be suppressed. Insect infestations that could lead to epidemic proportions and threaten important resources outside Naikoon will be controlled using low impact, site specific methods. A management plan (see 3rd action statement) will define fire management strategies.

- Allow natural dune processes and vegetation patterns to continue with minimal disturbance from recreation use. Public education and awareness and local cooperation will be key for this success. This is particularly important for the dunes within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.

- Prepare a vegetation management plan that will identify specific management strategies relying on current vegetation mapping. As part of the vegetation management plan, a fire management plan will be prepared that will indicate specific circumstances and locations for which wildfires may be suppressed. The plan will consider objectives and strategies for conserving vegetation patterns and rare species, natural fire regimes, public safety, forest resources around Naikoon, and the protection of facilities. The vegetation management plan will identify strategies for protecting rare and sensitive species and will link into forest ecosystems adjacent to Naikoon. As well, the plan will identify possible strategies for protecting those features and natural processes that could be altered by introduced species. The plan will also deal with controlling

introduced broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*) along Naikoon's roadsides, open areas, and where seed sources may spread. The control of broom in the Misty Meadows, Tlell area will continue to be a priority.

- Monitor and study dune forest vegetation to determine the effects of grazing and recreation use. Methods may include permanent sample plots with regular photographic documentation and sampling and construction of experimental exclosures. Sites within the ecological reserves are a high priority for this type of study.

- Maintain close communication with forest operators adjacent to Naikoon in terms of how their operations might affect Naikoon's forests in the boundary areas.

- Maintain open meadow patches, as funding is available, in a portion (less than two hectares) of the Misty Meadows area and the Tlell Fall Fair area in order to maintain habitat diversity as well as recreation and cultural values. This "interference" in a forest succession is compatible with the objectives for the campground-day use area covered by the Intensive Recreation Zone. Most of the Misty Meadows area would be allowed to revert back to forest cover.

- Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, or Naikoon's facilities. Tree snags may be removed in any area of Naikoon for the safety of staff as directed by the Workers Compensation Board.

- Communicate to appropriate authorities of concerns about the potential risks associated with introducing species to the Island and the need for public awareness and strategic planning to deal with this issue.

Wildlife

The Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii are home to ten known naturally occurring mammals including river otter, black bear, pine marten, weasel, deer mouse, dusky shrew, and four species of bat. Through wildlife surveys in Naikoon are limited it is believed that Naikoon provides habitat suitable for all ten of the native mammal species.

Many of the endemic species are distinct subspecies of the islands. One example, the Haida weasel, is listed as a "vulnerable" species and little is known of its population density, habitat requirements or breeding biology.

There are numerous species introduced to the islands that occur in Naikoon. These include black-tailed deer, beaver, raccoon, muskrat, red squirrel, rats, and feral dogs, cats, and cattle. Virtually all of these introduced species have affected the natural ecosystems of Naikoon, perhaps the most serious being the beaver, raccoon, and the deer. Beaver are changing the direction and hydrology of streams with their dams, and affecting spawning grounds and nesting sites along riparian zones. The deer are changing the composition of the understorey vegetation by eliminating shrubs and forbs and by browsing on cedar seedlings while leaving other species to mature. It is not known to what extend the raccoon and squirrel are affecting the bird populations

through nest predation or other activities. Feral cattle also roam Naikoon and may be contributing to changes in natural vegetation patterns, particularly along coastal upland areas.

Naikoon provides important habitat for over 170 species of birds of which 46 species breed within the area. The sand, gravel and boulder beaches, associated driftwood zones and grassy meadows, dunes rock formations, river estuaries, bogs, lakes and old-growth forest in Naikoon invite a diversity of species that is unusual within such a relatively small area. The area plays an important role in providing habitat for migratory birds and significant nesting sites for Plover and shorebirds and is an important wintering area for Sanderling. Some of these important nesting sites are also attractive for recreation and some sites can be affected. Naikoon has a particularly important conservation role in providing habitat for one of the largest breeding populations of Greater Sandhill Crane and potential for the Marbled Murrelet which is designated as a threatened species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).
Naikoon does not directly protect marine mammal habitat except for haul-outs in the Rose Spit-Naii Kun area for seals and sea lions. The off-shore areas outside Naikoon do, however, provide feeding areas for whales. There are just a few locations along the shore where rocky outcrops provide intertidal pool habitat for marine invertebrates. Sand beaches are rich in life forms including worms, isopods, shrimp, snails, and clams. The Western toad is found within Naikoon.

Objectives

- To conserve rare, endangered, sensitive or vulnerable species.
- To conserve natural populations of endemic wildlife species.
- To increase knowledge, understanding, and management capabilities relating to wildlife resources, habitat and effects from introduced species and feral cattle.
- To encourage scientific research of native wildlife species associated with old growth and wetlands and related to critical habitat for migratory birds.
- To provide opportunities for viewing and interpretation of wildlife species that will not be negatively affected by such activities.
- To provide regulated hunting for specified introduced species.

Actions

- Use available vegetation mapping (completed in 1992) to prepare habitat suitability and capability mapping[5] for: 1) naturally occurring wildlife species that are threatened, rare or sensitive; and, 2) introduced species that may affect natural processes and populations. This project will indicate the types of wildlife

[5] Habitat suitability mapping identifies the current state of habitat availability to a particular wildlife species. Habitat capability mapping identifies the type of habitat that could potentially be available to particular wildlife species given the optimum conditions or the optimum successional stage. Each of these mapping techniques considers physiography, climate, and soil conditions.

habitat that is available, or potentially available, but does not indicate the actual presence of wildlife species.

- Use the habitat suitability and capability mapping information to undertake an inventory of species. The highest priorities for inventory work are: 1) native species that are most threatened, rare, or sensitive; and, 2) introduced species that threaten natural ecological processes or populations.

- Develop a wildlife management plan which describes species-specific management strategies with reference to the vegetation management plan. The highest priority is to develop beaver management strategies because of their effect on salmonid habitat. A beaver management project will define experimental strategies and implement them on a trial basis to determine their success. Information from this project will help define beaver management strategies. BC Parks will seek support and cooperation for this project from the Haida Fisheries Branch, the Haida Forestry Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

  Other priorities to be covered by the wildlife management plan include developing management strategies for raccoons and deer and providing management strategies for protecting important, rare or sensitive habitats identified through the habitat suitability and capability evaluation project.

- Ensure important habitat, such as nesting sites, are protected through public education, regulations and enforcement. Particular attention will be given to the habitat within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.

- Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch in managing hunting opportunities in Naikoon for specific introduced species as identified in the regulations.

- Contact western universities about their possible interests for research in Naikoon. The intent is to encourage research related to the conservation and monitoring of natural features and processes in Naikoon. BC Parks will support the proprietary aspects of intellectual knowledge at all times and will ensure that any institutions welcomed into Naikoon by BC Parks respect this as well.

- Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, or Naikoon's facilities. Tree snags may be removed in any area of Naikoon for safety of staff as directed by the Workers Compensation Board.

Fish and Shellfish

In the freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams of Naikoon, eleven species of fish are known to occur. As well, there are three salmon species that run within the six major rivers within Naikoon. Adult steelhead trout migrate into the major rivers from December to April and Dolly Varden char are widespread in the lakes and streams in Naikoon. The Oeanda, Cape Ball, and Mayer rivers are particularly important for coho production. Three species of sculpin and sticklebacks are also within Naikoon.

Sport fishing is allowed in Naikoon and, other than restrictions on guiding, there are no special restrictions in place. The Tlell River is the most popular fishing area and peaks during the September runs of coho. The Sangan, Hiellen, Mayer, and Cape Ball Rivers are also fished for coho and steelhead. some fishing occurs for cutthroat trout on Mayer Lake.

Although much of the large razor clam beds occur outside of Naikoon's boundaries, some razor clam beds occur in a number of Naikoon's beaches, primarily in the northeastern beaches. Clam digging for recreation and sustenance occurs within Naikoon, and commercial clam digging largely occurs outside of Naikoon's boundaries. Most of the clam digging is done by Haida citizens. Experienced clam diggers have noticed downward trends in clam populations and size although the causes have not been demonstrately established. The clam diggers make associations between the winter "blow ups" and the downward trends.

Objectives

- To maintain the current natural diversity and productivity of fish and shellfish species in Naikoon.
- To maintain natural fish and shellfish habitat and, where possible, restore damaged habitat.
- To provide angling opportunities for visitors to Naikoon without jeopardizing natural fish populations.

Actions

- Undertake, with cooperation and support from the Haida Fisheries Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch, a fisheries assessment for specified rivers in Naikoon. This assessment will be used to determine spawning and escapement numbers and this information will be used in preparing a fisheries management plan. It is unrealistic to expect that all rivers will be assessed. Therefore, rivers will need to be ranked to determine which have fish populations most at risk. Ranking will consider factors affecting the fishery, including: 1) effects from human fisheries; 2) effects from beaver activity, and; 3) water quality and spawning capability.
- Prepare a fishery management plan in conjunction with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch. the plan will assess current angling harvest numbers and determine acceptable quotas. The plan will also outline priorities for studies including the on-going monitoring of clam beds and stream rehabilitation and fisheries enhancement for streams damaged by beaver activity.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Work in cooperation with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Queen Charlotte

Islands-Haida Gwaii Freshwater Sport Fishery Advisory Board (S.F.A.B.), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to deal with on-going issues relating to angling.

- Work with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii S.F.A.B., the Tlell Watershed Society, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that the current Class 2 classification for the Tlell River is maintained.

- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking. Since salmonid populations may be threatened by beaver activities, habitat enhancement to return habitat to natural conditions and stocking of salmonid species may be considered for any zone within Naikoon.

- Monitor the effects on clam beds caused by vehicle users travelling Naikoon's beaches below the natural tide line.

Physiography

Naikoon is known for its beaches and sand dunes. Other physiographic features such as the Tow Hill columnar basalt outcrop, erosion cliffs along East Beach, and the ancient dunes within the interior of Naikoon are interesting physiographic features.

The area in the vicinity of Cape Ball is considered to be the earliest known post-glacial site on British Columbia's coast. Scientists are suggesting that the area may have been a post glacial refugia dating as far back as 16,000 years.

Naikoon's physiography contributes to the diversity of wildlife habitats and contributes to scenic qualities. As well, these features are available for interpretation and education and they also enhance recreation activities.

Objectives

- To increase public awareness about special physiographic features within Naikoon.

- To ensure that educational, interpretative and recreation activities do not significantly affect physiographic features and are keeping with other conservation objectives for Naikoon.

Actions

- Provide information in the frontcountry (Intensive Recreation Zone) explaining physiographic processes such as those relating to formations of dunes and of Rose Spit-Naii Kun.

- Minimize human interference in natural physiographic processes such as dune formation, stabilization and "blow-outs". This will be achieved through public education, cooperative efforts with local resident groups, enforcement of *Park Act* regulations, and exclosures if necessary. Particular attention will be given to the dune formations within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.

Visual Features

The natural scenery of Naikoon is important to the visitor's experience. Views from the beaches, along trails through the old-growth forests, overlooking the bogs, and from atop

Tow Hill all provide different scenic perspectives.

Natural views can be affected by both public facility development within Naikoon, as well as by private property development. Most of the residential developments occur in areas associated with the Intensive Recreation Zone of Naikoon. In other zones, however, most surveyed lands remain in an undeveloped state and the natural views are largely unaffected.

The Tow Hill Road provides a scenic approach to the Tow Hill area of Naikoon. The road is narrow and winds through an old growth forest with moss festooned branches overhanging the roadway. Thus, the road provides people with a unique visual experience. Most of Tow Hill Road is under the Ministry of Highway's jurisdiction and they have had plans to widen and upgrade the road for safety and maintenance reasons. These plans could affect the unique character of the road.

Objective

- To minimize unnatural changes to the scenery of Naikoon.

Actions

- Work with the Ministry of Highways to ensure that, as roads in Naikoon are maintained or improved, the scenic character of the roads is retained.

- In conjunction with BC Parks' priorities for the purchase of inholdings, consideration will be given to how private developments on inholdings could affect the natural scenic values of Naikoon.

Outdoor Recreation Features

Naikoon has a number of natural features that provide for a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Beaches are the primary recreation feature, providing a range of opportunities from easily accessible day use family opportunities to extended backpacking opportunities for experienced outdoors people. The old growth forests provide an alternative environment for hiking and nature interpretation. Tow Hill provides a spectacular view of the northern portion of Naikoon including examples of interior wetlands.

Objective

- To ensure that recreation, facility development, and use is compatible with outdoor recreation features and in keeping with conservation objectives for Naikoon's values and is compatible with Haida values and interests.

Actions

- Manage recreation use in conjunction with Naikoon's zoning so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally affected.

- Develop strategies to minimize effects from recreation use on sand dunes and beach areas. (See Outdoor Recreation Section)

Cultural and Historical Values

Cultural values have numerous aspects and these values may not always be readily apparent to Naikoon's visitors. There may be connections to specific sites where historical events occurred, to artifacts that may still be visible, to events that have occurred and continue to influence a community's life, to influences that the area may have on cultural characteristics, and to the way an area is used. There are important values associated with Naikoon for cultural identities, specifically Haida and Canadian.

Naikoon is steeped in historic and contemporary cultural values for the Haida. They have established village names in Naikoon. For this culture that places much importance on generational legacies, Naii Kunn (Rose Spit) and Tow Hill figure importantly in the physical and intellectual map of the Haida. Many of the historic activities such as harvesting and processing, that were important in the lives of previous generations are still carried out today in Naikoon. In some cases the technology has changed somewhat but the experience and knowledge that permits the activity is maintained in full character.

Naikoon and the management of human activities will affirm the importance of the harmonious relationship with institutions and the Haida citizens. Current and evolving cultural activities are a part of a dynamic and living culture and this will be reflected in the management of Naikoon.

Naikoon also has historical values associated with colonial settlement of the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii. Colonialists first attempted to homestead the interior lands of Naikoon at the turn of the century. Remnants of their efforts to subdue the great wetlands are the abandoned trails, wooden railways, ditches, and fences. Much of the evidence of this early settlement is becoming overgrown and reclaimed by nature and most people have not visited these sites, partly because the historic trails have not been maintained. Local history writers have documented much of the interesting settlement history and recorded the artifacts that remain today. An interesting artifact that is frequently visited by beach walkers is the front portion of the 1928 Pesuta shipwreck near Tlell. Each year the winter ocean storms claims more of the wreck and soon it will disappear.

Objectives

- To recognize historic and living cultural values as integral parts of Naikoon.
- To ensure that historic Haida village sites and other cultural sites are protected and managed in accordance with Haida values and interests.
- To compile and document information of Naikoon's cultural history.
- To increase awareness about the human history of Naikoon and to encourage the disemination of factual information.

Actions

- Assist in the documentation of memorabilia, photographs, and written and oral histories on the activities and affects associated with the early colonial period, including the relationship

between immigrants, their children and the Haida.

- Undertake an archaeological assessment study in conjunction with the Haida to increase knowledge of ancient and historical village sites. To ensure that location projects do not expose the sites to uses inconsistent with the wishes of the Haida.

- Important Haida sites will be protected by designating them as Special Features Zones (see Zoning Section).

- Work to develop strategies for addressing the remnants of the colonial period, especially historic trails.

Section Six

Recreation Opportunities and Management

Recreation Opportunities and Management

Introduction

This section of the management plan describes the strategies for managing outdoor recreation and access in Naikoon. The main theme of this section is to define how Naikoon contributes to people's enjoyment of the outdoors, in communing with nature, and in recreation. It looks at how both tourists and the Island community can experience what Naikoon has to offer and how
BC Parks plays a role in balancing use of Naikoon with protecting its features and values for future generations. This section also deals with how people gain access to different areas of Naikoon.

General Concept

BC Parks has four "outdoor recreation goals" which are achieved through a provincial system of parks. All of these goals are represented in Naikoon, providing: 1) a range of regional recreation opportunities; 2) outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities; 3) a tourist destination for outdoor recreation; and, 4) recreation opportunities along a major travel corridor.

The majority of Naikoon's use is concentrated at the beach areas at the north end and in the Tlell area. Local residents contribute the most use and enjoy Naikoon's opportunities year round. During the summer months, tourist visits to Naikoon increase in number and often the campgrounds are near capacity. Campground use has been steadily increasing with 4,612 parties counted in 1993 and many of these campers were first time visitors. Detailed information on visitor use is found in the background document.

The management of visitor services must address current needs but must also consider how to manage for changing visitor patterns and how tourism strategies for the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii might affect Naikoon's use. The importance of Naikoon to the Island community is a major consideration in how the area is managed. The general concepts for managing recreation are discussed in two parts: the frontcountry and the backcountry.

Frontcountry Concept

Naikoon has two main areas where most of the visitor use is concentrated. First, in Tlell where there is the Misty Meadows campground, trail to the Pesuta shipwreck, trails to the Tlell beaches, and the Park Headquarters. The south end of Mayer Lake is near Tlell and is a popular staging site for boating, picnicking, and fishing on the lake.

The second area of concentrated use is in the Tow Hill-Agate Beach campground area where trails lead to the top of Tow Hill and through old-growth forests and interior bogs to Cape Fife. North Beach is a popular feature for picnicking, beachcombing, relaxing walks, clam digging, or driving up the beach to explore further. These frontcountry sites are also used as starting

points for those who backpack to Rose Spit, East Beach, or Cape Fife.

The frontcountry areas have the potential for additional interpretive opportunities covering natural, cultural and historical features. Facility development for recreation in this area for a variety of activities is consistent with Naikoon's zoning and concentrates most of the use to a small proportion of Naikoon. In summary, visitors to these sites of Naikoon can expect general evidence of human presence, with constructed facilities and a variety of easily accessible outdoor activities.

Objectives

- To provide facilities at Tlell, Misty Meadows, Tow Hill, and Agate Beach for easily accessible, educational, and safe outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors.

- To utilize Tow Hill and Agate Beach as a staging area for recreation opportunities into Naikoon's backcountry.

Actions

- Refer to sections in this plan covering zoning, outdoor recreation opportunities, and communications.

Backcountry Concept

Naikoon provides backcountry opportunities in two different environments. By far the most popular is the beach environment that provides day hikes and multiple day backpacking trips. The Cape Fife trail provides backcountry hikers an opportunity to visit the interior old growth forest and bog environments. Often the two environments are experienced in the same backcountry trip.

The natural undisturbed character of the backcountry is important to maintain and a high priority will be placed on ensuring that recreation activities have minimal effects on the landscape. In essence, along trails, people will see some evidence of human presence while most of the backcountry will be primarily free of evidence of human presence.

Objectives

- To provide backcountry recreation opportunities that are compatible with conservation objectives and respectful of Haida cultural values.

Actions

- Refer to sections in this plan covering zoning, outdoor recreation opportunities, and communications.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Introduction

Naikoon's natural features provide an attractive setting for a variety of opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature interpretation. These activities must be managed so that they are compatible with the zoning, are not detrimental to natural or cultural resources, and are consistent with visitor's expectations. the underlying

principle is that visitor's use of Naikoon must not be detrimental to Naikoon's natural or cultural resources. This section describes what types of activities Naikoon provides for recreation, for people's enjoyment of the outdoors, and for communing with nature.

Naikoon has two campgrounds which meet current demands for vehicle camping. The Misty Meadows campground is within a forest stand, whereas the Agate Beach campground is located next to the beach and is quite exposed. Both campgrounds also provide tenting sites.

The Agate Beach campground frontage has been eroding over the past few years. This creates uncertainty about the long-term viability of the campground.

A cleared area of Naikoon in the Tlell area is used for group camping but is also the same area needed for the annual Tlell Fall Fair and for other local community groups. BC Parks ensures that the area is available for the fair and allows other community events to be reserved. As group camping and community interests in the area both increase in popularity, there will be a need to monitor these overlapping uses to see if conflicts arise.

Objective

- To provide facilities for frontcountry camping at the south and the north end of Naikoon.

Actions

- Maintain the current level of camping sites and related facilities.
- Monitor erosion of the Agate Beach campground frontage. If the campground is threatened, investigate an alternative location for a replacement campground. Also, investigate jointly with the Old Massett Village Council, establishing camping facilities on the Hiellen and Yakan Point "Indian Reserves".
- Monitor uses of the area used for group camping and community events to determine if there are significant conflicts. If conflicts become a serious issue, investigate other possible sites for a group campground.

Frontcountry Walking and Beach Activities

Most of the frontcountry walking occurs on Naikoon's northern beaches and the beaches at Tlell. Many of these people are drawn along the beaches to search for natural and human artifacts that have washed ashore. Many tourists and local residents come to the beaches hoping to find the heavily sought-after glass balls. The beaches also provide an opportunity for those that want to be close to the ocean, to watch for whales and marine birds, and to relax and play in the sand and drift logs. Some people look for opportunities to walk sections of beaches away from vehicles.

Other popular frontcountry walking opportunities are found along the shore of the Tlell River, following the trails to the Tow Hill viewing platform and to the erosion features below Tow Hill, and through the meadows near the Misty Meadows campground. The walk from the highway pull-off at the Tlell River to the Pesuta shipwreck is also popular. The trail

winds through mature forests and then along the beaches on the west side of the Tlell River.

Objective

- To acknowledge frontcountry walking opportunities as an integral part of peoples' experience of Naikoon and to play a role in their enjoyment of Naikoon's diverse natural settings.

Actions

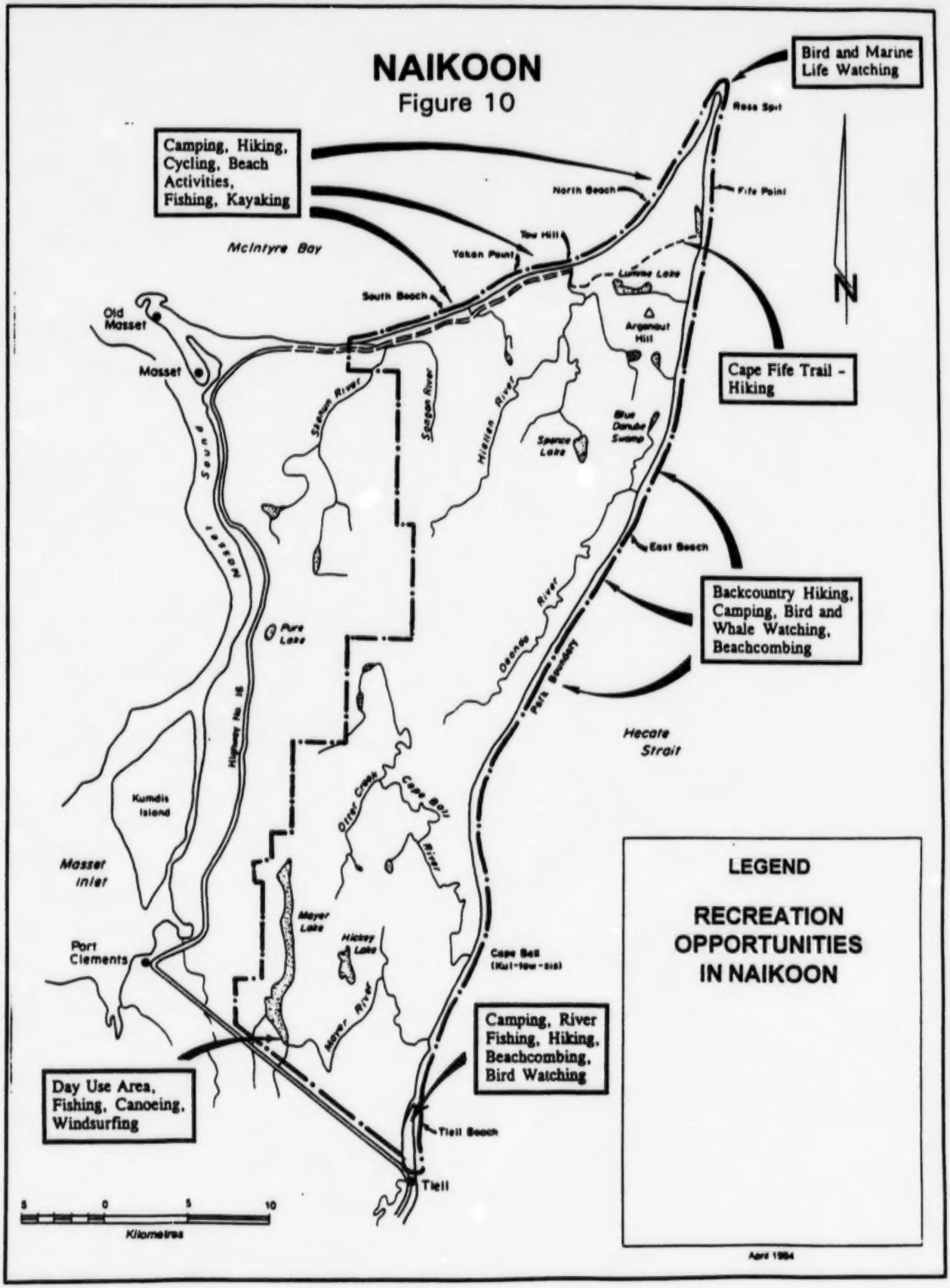
- Ensure that trail maintenance and use, both authorized and unauthorized, does not impact in a negative way on Old Massett Reserves and cultural sites.

- Maintain the current trails up to the Tow Hill viewpoint, to areas below Tow Hill, to the Pesuta shipwreck, using boardwalks where protection of the ground surface is necessary.

- Establish certain areas for frontcountry beach walking opportunities during the warmer months which are free of vehicles (see Access Strategy section).

- Protect the dune environment adjacent to the Misty Meadows campground where the beach access trail cuts across a dune formation.

- Investigate a possible short trail to be developed near the Agate Beach campground that would provide interpretive opportunities related to Naikoon's wetlands.


NAIKOON
Figure 10
Bird and Marine Life Watching
Camping, Hiking, Cycling, Beach Activities, Fishing, Kayaking
Cape Fife Trail - Hiking
Backcountry Hiking, Camping, Bird and Whale Watching, Beachcombing
Camping, River Fishing, Hiking, Beachcombing, Bird Watching
Day Use Area, Fishing, Canoeing, Windsurfing
Ross Spit
North Beach
Fife Point
Tow Hill
Yakan Point
Mcintyre Bay
South Beach
Lumme Lake
Argonaut Hill
Old Masset
Masset
Masset Sound
Skidegate Inlet
Yakoun River
Sangan River
Hiellen River
Sperce Lake
Blue Danube Swamp
East Beach
Pure Lake
Oeanda River
Park Boundary
Hecate Strait
Highway No. 16
Kumdis Island
Masset Inlet
Otter Creek
Cape Bell River
Mayer Lake
Hickey Lake
Port Clements
Cape Bell (Kul-tow-sis)
Mayer River
Tlell Beach
Tlell
5 0 5 10
Kilometres
LEGEND
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN NAIKOON
April 1984

Backcountry Hiking and Backpacking

The Cape Fife Trail, North Beach and East Beach provide the best areas for hiking and backpacking opportunities in Naikoon. The beach routes can be started from either the Tlell area or the Tow Hill area of Naikoon. The Cape Fife trail begins from the Tow Hill parking lot.

The East Beach hike has traditionally been the most publicized backcountry trek, usually taking about six days. Hikers are expected to be prepared for an extended outing without facilities and possibly without fresh water. Although many of the hikers enjoy the experience, for some, it is not what they expected. Some find it unexpectedly grueling to hike along the beach for six days with a full pack and others find that after a few days the beach hike becomes monotonous. As well, hikers are vulnerable to changes in tides and sudden changes in weather that can occur any time of the year, particularly along East Beach which is quite exposed to the elements.

An alternative route that can be completed easily in two to three days is the loop including the Cape Fife Trail to East Beach then to Rose Spit and back to Tow Hill. This route passes through a variety of environments, from mature forests and wetlands to the dunes at Rose Spit and includes stretches of beaches as well. Hikers will need to be informed about using the defined route through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve or following the beach around the spit in order to avoid hiking through the sensitive habitat in the reserve.

There are a couple of undeveloped routes in the northern interior of Naikoon that follow historic wagon roads. These have not been maintained by BC Parks, however, a few local residents know the locations of the routes and walk them occasionally.

Objective

- To provide information and minimal rustic facilities to assist people who hike and backpack in the backcountry areas of Naikoon.

Actions

- Maintain established rustic facilities along East Beach for hikers and backpackers and ensure that visitors have appropriate safety and survival information to plan their trip (see Communications section).

- Ensure hikers are informed about using the defined route through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve or following the beach around the spit in order to avoid sensitive habitat within the reserve.

- Maintain the Cape Fife Trail in order to minimize effects on the natural environment.

- Work with the Old Massett Village Council to increase visitor awareness that their reserves and private property are not part of Naikoon.

Angling

Opportunities for angling are found on the Sangan, Hiellen, Tlell, Mayer, and Cape Ball rivers and on Mayer Lake. The main species of interest to the sport angler are coho, steelhead, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden. Local residents familiar with Naikoon, surf cast for Halibut at the base of Tow Hill, although this can be hazardous.

The most popular angling occurs on the Tlell River, primarily because it is the most accessible. Conflicts between anglers have occurred during peak times. For example, riverbank anglers competing for space with boating anglers.

Mayer Lake provides opportunities for anglers with small boats (car-toppers).

Objective

- To maintain angling opportunities without jeopardizing native fish populations and which are compatible with conservation objectives.

Actions

- Continue to work in cooperation with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Fish and Wildlife Branch, and the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Freshwater Sport Fisheries Advisory Board to manage sport fishing in Naikoon. The Tlell, Hiellen, Cape Ball, and Oeanda rivers are the most important to monitor because they are the most frequented fisheries. Mayer Lake will also be monitored for angling activity to ensure that the regulations are in keeping with the conservation objective for Naikoon.

Hunting

Hunting is allowed within Naikoon except for certain areas which have specific regulations. For example, the area around Naikoon's headquarters, campgrounds, and the mouth of the Tlell River, are closed to hunting from April 1 to September 13 because of public safety concerns. A 50 metre strip along the southeast banks of the Tlell River is open only to shotguns and shot to allow hunting of ducks. As well, a hunting closure is in effect within 400 metres of Highway 16 and the Tow Hill Road. There is also a no shooting area designated over a small area at Tow Hill. Ecological Reserves are closed to hunting at all times.

Most hunting occurs along the fringes of Naikoon and both residents and tourists are primarily after deer but occasionally a bear is taken. The deer populations, which were introduced to the islands are considered stable and there is no concern about over-harvesting the species.

Objective

- To maintain current opportunities for hunting within Naikoon in accordance with provincial hunting regulations.

Actions

- Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the Conservation Service Officer to regulate hunting activities to ensure public safety and healthy populations.

- Continue to honour traditional hunting rights of the Haida as they may apply in Naikoon.

Boating

Opportunities for boating are not extensive in Naikoon. Mayer Lake and the Tlell River are the two main places this activity is active and are suitable for small boats only. A small wharf is provided for boaters on Mayer Lake.

Objective

- To maintain current facilities for small boating opportunities for Mayer Lake.

Actions

- Apply to establish a boat motor size restriction for Mayer Lake.

- Maintain small dock at the south end of Mayer Lake.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is enjoyed by a few people along the beaches in Naikoon. Disturbances to the natural environment are negligible. Most of the trips last only a few hours and involve single riders. Horse drawn buggies are occasionally driven on the beaches.

Objective

- To allow horse use in Naikoon as long as conservation objectives and Haida cultural values and sites are not adversely affected.

Actions

- Allow responsible horse use in Naikoon. Work with people who take their horses into Naikoon to ensure that they keep out of the campground areas and that effects from horse use are not detrimental to Naikoon. Horses will be kept to the designated route while passing through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Monitor this activity to ensure conservation objectives are not being affected and close if damage occurs.

Mountain Biking

The best mountain biking opportunities in Naikoon are along the tidal flats of North Beach where the sands are naturally compacted at low tides. Some people have been known to take mountain bikes along the Cape Fife trail and the trail to the Pesuta shipwreck, however, the trails are not designed for this activity. The numbers of bikers who travel these trails is small and this has meant there has been little or no problem with them. Increased use on these trails could lead to problems.

Objective

- To allow limited mountain biking opportunities in Naikoon as long as conservation objectives are not affected.

Actions

- Monitor the condition of the trails for any signs of damage from mountain biking and keep a record of complaints about the use. If necessary, close trails to mountain biking to protect the trail environment or safety of hikers.

Nature Study

The potential for nature study opportunities are extensive in Naikoon. Although there is no interpretive trail and interpretive information is minimal, visitors have opportunities to view and study numerous natural resources independently. For many people, nature study is an important part of any recreational outing in Naikoon. This aspect of recreation is linked with interpretive strategies detailed in the Communications section.

Objective

- To continue to provide means for delivering information that encourages nature study.

Actions

- Investigate the development of an interpretive trail near the Agate Beach campground in order for people to be able to visit and learn about a portion of Naikoon's wetland ecosystem.

- Develop a nature study guide for Naikoon's natural resources and features (see Communications section).

Recreation Guiding

Recreation guiding can enhance some visitors' enjoyment of Naikoon. Guiding is a commercial activity and requires a Park Use Permit from BC Parks. Some forms of recreation guiding such as guided hiking are compatible with Naikoon and the objectives of this plan. Generally, guiding opportunities are judged on their possible effects on natural resources, facilities and trails, the wilderness character, and other visitors. In essence, protection of the natural resources is a high priority and as such, limitations or restrictions on recreation guiding may be implemented.

Objective

- To allow limited recreation guiding where compatible with conservation and recreation objectives and where suitable, information exists in order to judge their possible effects.

Actions

- Assess proposals for recreation guiding for how they affect the conservation and recreation goals of Naikoon. Recreation guiding may be acceptable on a limited basis where the activity does not conflict with conservation objectives, or with other visitors, and the activity does not degrade the natural environment. Only low impact, non-consumptive recreation guiding operations will be considered. Examples that might be considered include: sightseeing tours; guided hiking and bird watching; cultural/history tours; and horse trips.

- Decline applications for any proposal using vehicles on the beaches, for helicopter access, or for guided hunting.

- Proposals for guided angling may be considered if: 1) there is sufficient biological information that indicates that the activity will not degrade the natural fish populations; 2) that the Haida Fisheries Branch, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch each recommend

approval; 3) there are limited conflicts with the sport fishing public; and, 4) that the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Sport Fishery Advisory Board recommends approval of the application.

Opportunities for Special Needs People

Naikoon's frontcountry has the potential to provide opportunities for people with special needs, however, no such facilities are currently available. People in wheelchairs have been known to fish the Tlell River from its gently sloping banks.

With much of Naikoon characterized by low relief, there is potential to incorporate trail standards for people in wheelchairs, seniors and sight-challenged people in some sections of frontcountry trails. Special needs facilities should be considered in a regional context to determine where such facilities are needed most.

Objective

- To consider special needs people in the management of Naikoon's frontcountry.

Actions

- Incorporate, where possible, facility standards for special needs people in the management of Naikoon's frontcountry with consideration to what is available for special needs people in a regional context.

Access Strategy

The access strategy is presented in two parts. First, the plan provides information and strategies for the various means in which people travel to and within Naikoon along designated roadways. Second, the management of vehicle access along Naikoon's beaches is presented.

Access Strategy - Designated Roadways

People can reach a number of areas of Naikoon by vehicle, however, most of these access points are along the outer fringe of Naikoon. In the Tlell area there are a number of vehicle access points. Beitush Road follows the lower Tlell River bank where anglers enjoy easy access to excellent frontcountry fishing opportunities. A highway pulloff on the north side of the Tlell River can be used for people wanting to hike a trail to the mouth of the Tlell River and the Pesuta shipwreck. The road into the Misty Meadows campground area ends a short distance from the Tlell Beach and another road from Highway 16 leads a short distance into Mayer Lake.

Also in the Tlell area is the locally known "road-to-nowhere" which has been blocked off and allowed to revert back to nature and currently provides a short walking opportunity. The road was originally built before Naikoon was designated and was to provide access to a picnic site above the Tlell River. When Naikoon was designated and picnicking and camping opportunities were developed at Misty Meadows, the road was blocked off.

There is continued debate among local residents and BC Parks about the merits of re-opening the "road to nowhere". On one hand, extending and opening the road would create a route to East Beach, but on the other hand, construction of a road would significantly affect the forest habitat and could lead to problems with managing vehicles on East Beach. In essence, developing the "road to nowhere" might solve some issues (vehicles crossing the Tlell River) but might create other issues. There is also concern about considering this type of development without knowing all the consequences such as effects on wildlife, possible Haida archaeological values, and blowdown problems.

There are a few locations where logging roads have been developed from the highway to the western boundary of Naikoon. There are no facilities for visitors at the ends of these logging roads and no significant recreation values at these points.

At the north end, Tow Hill road winds its way through magnificent overhanging, moss laden trees and ends at Tow Hill. This road also travels close to the beaches and brings people to the Agate Beach campground, picnicking area and shelter. At the end of the Tow Hill Road, people can park their vehicles and walk to Tow Hill, North Beach or into the forest along the Cape Fife Trail. The main issue with respect to Tow Hill Road is balancing the scenic beauty of the road with BC Highway's management concerns regarding flooding, maintenance, and safety along the road.

Objective

- To provide a reasonable level of access for visitors to experience Naikoon while minimizing effects on the environment, wildlife, and visitor's enjoyment of Naikoon.

- To maintain the scenic qualities of roads within Naikoon and to minimize adverse effects from vehicle users through the Hiellen Reserve.

Actions

- Work with BC Highways to establish management guidelines for Tow Hill Road and Beitush Road which protects the roads' unique scenic character. BC Parks supports those upgrading plans which minimizes the alterations or removal of trees along side of the current road surface.

- Continue to allow the "road to nowhere" to revert back to forest, allowing for opportunities for short walks through the forest.

- Work with the Old Massett Village Council regarding the management of the road through the Hiellen Reserve[1].

Access Strategy - Vehicles on Beaches

Vehicle use on Naikoon's beaches is most popular at the north end and the Tlell end. Vehicle use along the length of East Beach is relatively lower in numbers. People are informed by signs that they are to keep vehicles below the high tide line where

[1] The Old Massett Village Council and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways are currently negotiating the status of the section of road leading to North Beach and which passes through the Hiellen Reserve.

effects on the natural environment are minimized.

Driving vehicles on the beaches within Naikoon has long been a popular activity for local residents and tourists to the islands. People use their vehicles to: reach the clam beds in the tidal flats just beyond Naikoon's boundary; reach isolated areas for hunting; salvage lost fishing equipment and crab traps; reach scallops after a storm has washed them ashore; undertake search and rescue missions; and, reach remote beach areas that would take a number of days to reach by foot. For the Haida, vehicles are important for harvesting and other purposes. As well, people use vehicles to travel the beaches during times when the weather is not suitable for hiking. People involved in four-wheel driving for recreation enjoy the social and "fun" aspects of driving on the beaches.

These activities are an important part of the lifestyle of many residents. The objectives of the management plan are to recognize this historical use, control the routing and focus vehicle use so that it does not damage critical and sensitive natural park and ecological reserve values and improve user understanding of and commitment to the actions needed to meet conservation objectives and build the trust necessary to achieve long term compliance. All of these actions are to be implemented within the framework of authorities provided through current legislation and regulations and managed to capitalize on available management resources.

BC Parks and the local study team have explored the various issues and believe that the following course of action will have the greatest effect in achieving the goals of this management plan.

Objective

- To allow for managed vehicle beach use while ensuring that effects on natural resources and features and conflicts with other users are minimized. This objective must conform to the conservation objectives and strategies stated elsewhere in this management plan.

Actions

- Maintain beaches as open to vehicles below the high tide line. Define the historic access corridor connecting North Beach with East Beach as a vehicle corridor under the *Park Act*, once the corridor is removed from the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Two sections of beaches are identified as "closed to vehicles" from June 1 to August 15. The two areas are: 1) Agate Beach; and, 2) the Tlell beach located from the Tlell River mouth to the southeast corner of Naikoon. It is also recognized that there are times when vehicles need access through the "vehicle free" areas and these are acknowledged. Examples of these needs include:
  - ⇒ salvage of lost fishing equipment, boats, logs, or crab traps;
  - ⇒ access to commercial shellfish harvesting;
  - ⇒ search and rescue purposes; and
  - ⇒ access for residents who access the foreshore in front of their own property.

These "closed to vehicles" sections are identified to provide opportunities during warmer periods for adults and children to enjoy easily accessible beaches for walks and picnicking safely away from vehicles. The vehicle closure period avoids the dates when salmon fishing from the beaches is popular and maintains year round access to most of Naikoon's beach areas and, in particular, the most popular areas such as North Beach to Rose Spit and East Beach.

- Identify South Beach as a "courtesy beach" where, during the summer months, the primary use is recognized for non-motorized activities such as picnicking and beach walking. Although vehicles are allowed below high tide line, people will be asked to avoid driving South Beach during the summer months as much as possible. This courtesy beach is voluntary and intended to acknowledge interests of both vehicle users and non-vehicle users. Information signs will be posted.

- Work with the Haida, the Naikoon Advisory Committee and the four-wheel drive club to deal with vehicle beach use issues should they arise. The intent is for the group and BC Parks to develop on-going management strategies as needed that are supportable by local residents. For example, the closure dates will be reviewed periodically to determine if they need to be adjusted. As well, a periodic review will be conducted on BC Parks' ability to administer and implement these strategies and the effectiveness of the overall vehicle management objective.

- Work with the Haida, the Naikoon Advisory Committee and the four-wheel drive club to develop specific initiatives to inform and increase awareness about vehicle use etiquette for Naikoon. The intent is to encourage all vehicle users to avoid sensitive areas such as the dunes and bird habitat of the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, beach grass ecosystems, and the Tlell River crossing at certain times of the year. Initiatives might include a pamphlet, school programs, public meetings, and advertisements and articles in the Observer. This initiative is particularly important for young drivers and tourists who are new to beach driving. In this way, all people who use Naikoon can play an important role in its stewardship.
- Establish a method with the local volunteer group and the four-wheel drive club to establish a method for citizens to "observe, record, and report" people who abuse the use of vehicles in Naikoon. This will provide a means for people who use the area to become effective guardians in protecting the natural values of Naikoon.

- Monitor the dunes and habitat in the Rose Spit area to determine if damaging uses are continuing. In addition, monitor other areas on Naikoon to determine the effects of recreational use on natural values and conservation objectives established in this management plan. Also develop, with the local volunteer group, means to mitigate the damage and to better protect sensitive sites.

- Ensure that the public is adequately informed of the hazards associated with beach driving and that only experienced and well prepared people should undertake the activity.

Management Services in Naikoon

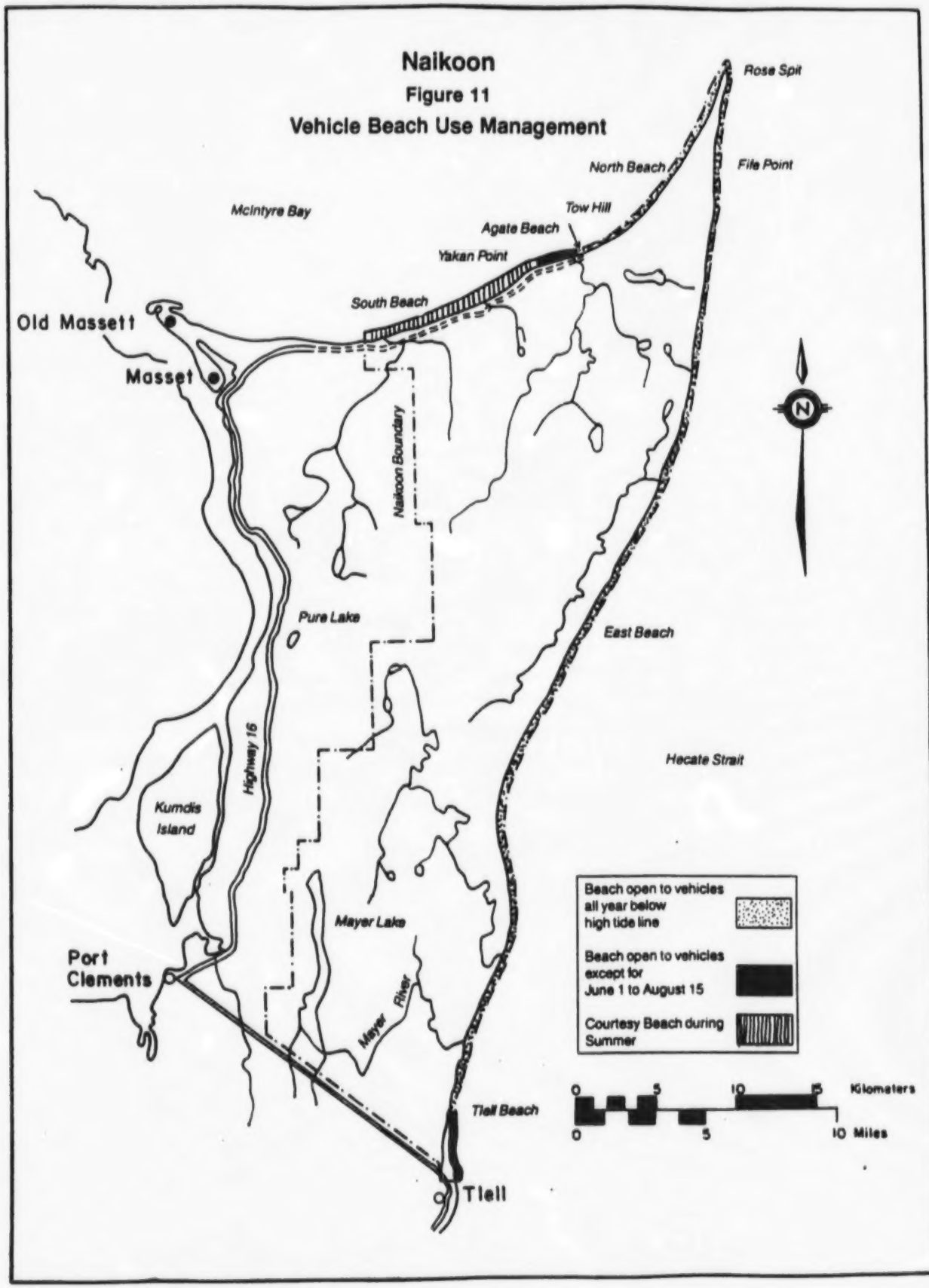
Naikoon is administered out of the Skeena District parks office in Smithers, the Zone office in Terrace, and Naikoon's Headquarters in Tlell. Staff ensure that various management responsibilities are carried out according to the *Park Act* and its regulations, the *Ecological Reserve Act*, this management plan, and established policies and procedures of the Ministry. This includes such priorities as: regulating public use to ensure safe and appropriate use of Naikoon; maintaining designated trails and facilities; managing permits covering commercial businesses operating in Naikoon; minimizing affects from visitor uses; and, assisting in resource management projects and collecting data.

Objective

- To carry out management responsibilities in cooperation with the Haida and according to the *Park Act*, regulations, and this management plan.

Actions

- Provide a seasonal ranger to be based at the north end of Naikoon as funding allows. Rangers will be involved with educating visitors about how to use Naikoon without damaging natural features, maintain facilities, monitor perimeters and contractors, and collecting reso ırce information.


Naikoon
Figure 11
Vehicle Beach Use Management
Rose Spit
North Beach
File Point
McIntyre Bay
Tow Hill
Agate Beach
Yakan Point
South Beach
Old Massett
Masset
Naikoon Boundary
Pure Lake
East Beach
Hecate Strait
Highway 16
Kumdis Island
Mayer Lake
Port Clements
Mayer River
Tlell Beach
Tlell
N
Beach open to vehicles all year below high tide line
Beach open to vehicles except for June 1 to August 15
Courtesy Beach during Summer
0 5 10 15 Kilometers
0 5 10 Miles

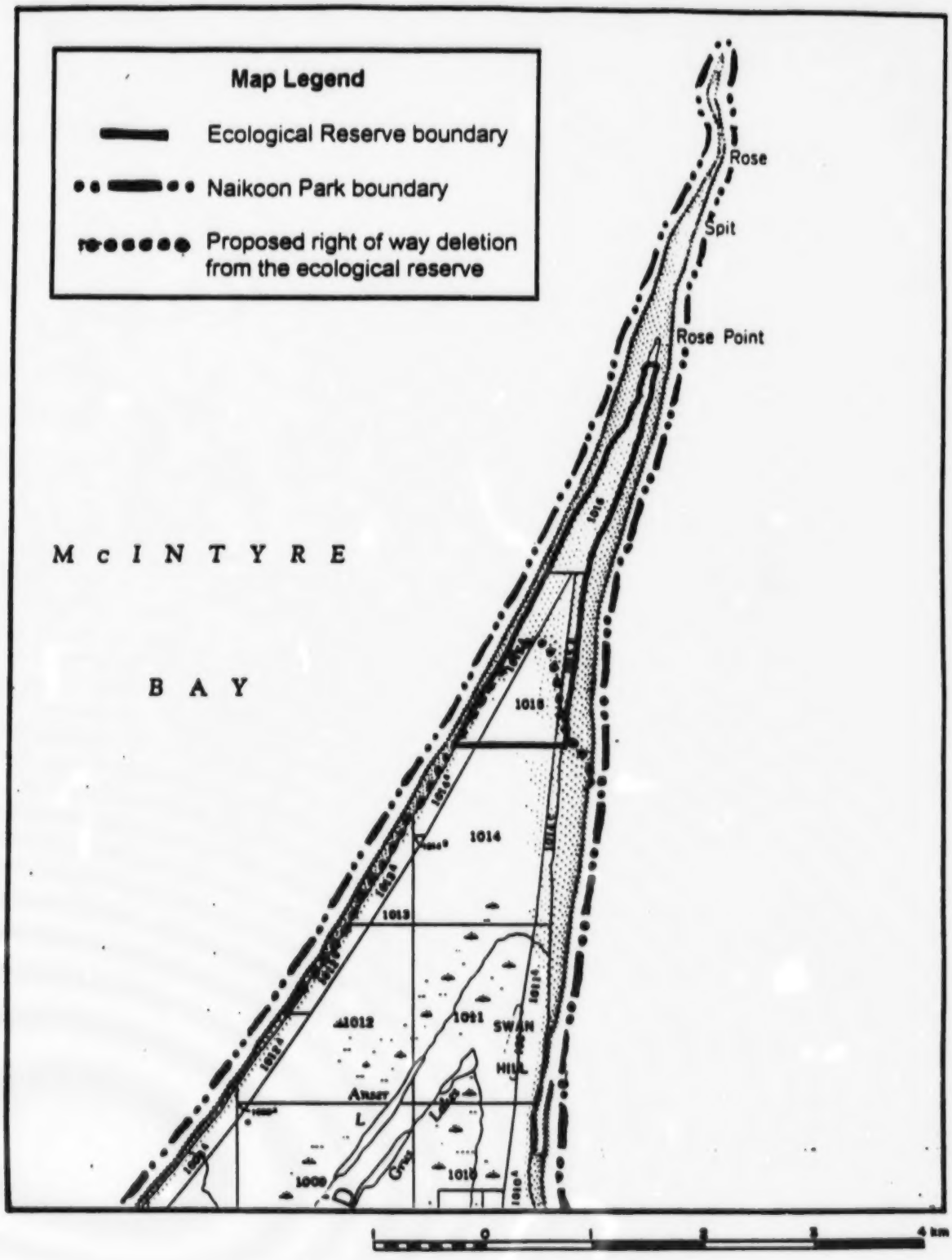


Figure 12- Rose Spit Ecological Reserve Map: Proposed Right of Way Deletion

Section Seven

Communications

Communications

Introduction

This section deals with the ways in which information about Naikoon is communicated: i.e. shared and presented. This section also puts a communication strategy into a context by describing the various roles information can play in Naikoon's management, in people's enjoyment of Naikoon, and in increasing awareness and knowledge of Naikoon's natural and cultural features and values as well as fostering environmental stewardship. There is also a recognition of the numerous ways in which information about Naikoon flows between groups and individuals and BC Parks.

Role of Awareness

Information about Naikoon can play a number of roles. Firstly, it can help people organize their holiday and plan what recreation activities they can do in Naikoon. Secondly, it can foster environmental stewardship by increasing people's awareness of the natural and cultural values of Naikoon in a local, regional, and provincial context. Thirdly, information can increase awareness of resource issues within Naikoon and promote outdoor etiquette and careful use. Fourthly, it can serve a role in informing the local non-aboriginal population and visitors about Haida history and thereby foster greater understanding between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.

The second, third and fourth roles stated are of particular importance to this management plan, because of the relationship between BC Parks and the public, and, in particular, the Island community, in the stewardship of Naikoon. Information about environmental values can encourage a wider understanding of the reasons for avoiding recreation activities in sensitive areas, such as bird habitat within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Information about cultural values will contribute to the protection of Haida sites and the continuation of the Haida's relationship to Naikoon.

In this way, information can lead to a greater involvement in Naikoon's stewardship by people who use Naikoon. Awareness of Naikoon's values also supports local pride in Naikoon and a general awareness of how Naikoon contributes to protecting special values and biodiversity on provincial, national and global scales (Figure 12).

Pre-trip Planning and Orientation Communications

Information in Naikoon is provided in handouts and on signs to help people become oriented and aware of available opportunities. Aside from providing important information to visitors, signs also create an identity for Naikoon and can provide a place to information visitors about other local and regional tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Most BC Parks offices and BC Tourism Infocentres provide information about Naikoon to people planning their trip. BC Parks brochures describe how to reach Naikoon, what facilities are available, and what activities Naikoon offers. The brochure

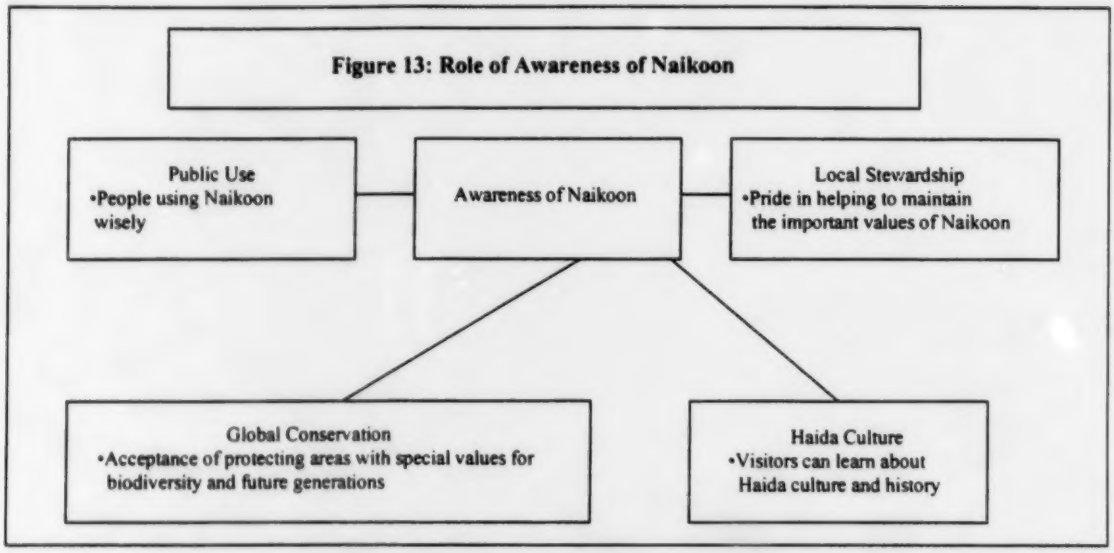


Figure 13: Role of Awareness of Naikoon
Public Use
•People using Naikoon wisely
Awareness of Naikoon
Local Stewardship
•Pride in helping to maintain the important values of Naikoon
Global Conservation
•Acceptance of protecting areas with special values for biodiversity and future generations
Haida Culture
•Visitors can learn about Haida culture and history

generally provides enough information for people planning to visit the frontcountry areas of Naikoon. People planning extended backcountry trips (East Beach) can obtain details from Naikoon's headquarters in Tlell and from BC Parks' offices in Terrace, Smithers, and Prince George. A video on Naikoon, prepared by the Knowledge Network, can be seen by visitors when they reach the headquarters at Tlell.

Information about Naikoon will be provided to people upon request, however, there is no need for promotion strategies that encourage increased use of Naikoon. Currently, Naikoon is known well on a local and regional scale and also attracts visitors from the rest of British Columbia and Canada as well as international tourists. The level of tourist use must be balanced with the level of tourist facilities available on the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii and in Naikoon and must be sensitive to the local uses of the area.

Information about Naikoon needs to be consistent and accurate and reflect the appropriate "image". This is particularly important for people who are planning their first trip to Naikoon. The image of Naikoon is strongly linked to the Vision Statement described earlier in this plan. The image presented to the public must be firmly grounded in the concepts presented by this management plan.

Objective

- To provide current, accurate, helpful information about Naikoon to assist people in planning their trip.

- To supply information to orient visitors in Naikoon and to supply information about other local recreation and tourism opportunities and provincial parks.

Actions

- Work with Island tourism associations and communities in providing appropriate pre-trip planning information.

- Ensure brochures and handouts on Naikoon remain current and accurate.

- Provide safety and information signs where needed in the Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment zones.

- Maintain the natural character of the Wilderness Recreation Zone by limiting signs to cases where they are necessary for visitor safety or for the protection of sensitive sites.

- Continue to work with Island tourism associations, the Haida, Chambers of Commerce, Parks Canada, and communities in providing regional tourism and outdoor recreation information.

- Develop a plan for how to best use a portion of Naikoon's headquarters in Tlell for visitor information.

Natural and Cultural Values Communications

Naikoon can provide an important role in sharing information about conservation, ecology, natural processes and features, Haida culture and history, and European settlement of Naikoon's interior. This type of information helps to cultivate an

understanding of how Naikoon is linked to the current lifestyle of residents and how it helped shape and influence the Haida culture today. Communications also has a role in conserving special features and biodiversity on a regional, provincial, and national level.

The Information Network

Information about Naikoon's cultural, historical, and natural values is available in a variety of forms: academic research and studies, published material, government reports, and individuals knowledgeable about Naikoon. This information can play a role in guiding how Naikoon is managed, how people enjoy its features, setting and opportunities, and can be shared with visitors to increase awareness about natural, cultural, and historical values. Information for preparing this management plan was gained from local volunteers on the study team, from the Haida, from other government agencies and reports, from staff managing Naikoon, and from the draft background document prepared in March 1992.

The numerous sources and forms of information, the "network", will continue to grow as more information about Naikoon's features and values is gathered. BC Parks will continue to be guided by new information and must consider how to integrate it into managing Naikoon and how to share the knowledge with other agencies, the public, and information liaison strategies with schools.

This management plan identifies the types of studies that are currently needed, such as the study to determine the effects of beaver on Naikoon's interior salmon spawning areas (see Fish and Shellfish section). Knowledge gained from such studies requires information from a variety of sources and, in turn, can be used in a variety of ways. It is important to consider the link between information gathered for resources management and its uses for interpretation and education programs in Naikoon.

Naikoon is suited to providing information on its role in conserving a representative area of the Queen Charlotte Lowlands ecosection, focusing on the following attributes:

Natural:

- Dune formation and dune vegetation;
- Beach formation, life forms, ecology;
- Ecology of bogs and plant associations;
- Coastal western hemlock vegetation communities;
- Wildlife viewing and ecology;
- Inter-tidal marine life; and,
- Traditional (Haida) ecological knowledge.

Cultural:

- Historical and contemporary Haida culture with respect to Naikoon; and,
- Colonial activities in Naikoon.

Objective

- To share information about natural and cultural features and values in the area in order to foster and maintain appreciation and understanding of Naikoon's significance and the importance in protecting these features and values.

Actions

- Develop a communications strategy for Naikoon which incorporates the *Regional Interpretation and Information Plan*[1] prepared by BC Parks in 1989. Communication themes will address the importance of Naikoon and its Ecological Reserves as protected areas as well as the main cultural and natural themes. BC Parks will work with the local volunteer group and the Haida in developing a communications strategy that will consist of information, interpretation (including interpretive trails), education, outreach programs, and community relations.

- In cooperation with the Haida, develop an educational guide to Naikoon which outlines activities relevant to Naikoon's natural and cultural themes for students and teachers. In conjunction with preparing this guide, develop strategies for integrating information about Naikoon into Island schools.

- Work with the Island volunteer group and the Haida to prepare a nature guide for Naikoon.

[1] This Plan was prepared by BC Parks staff to develop a strategy that best incorporates each park's special features and resources into a regional interpretative strategy.

Section Eight

Plan Implementation

Plan Implementation

Introduction

This section compiles all of the actions listed throughout the Management Plan and lists them in three separate groups: 1) the first list includes the task or project oriented actions that are of the highest importance or priority; 2) the second list comprises the task or project oriented actions that also need to be considered; and, 3) the third list includes all of on-going or monitoring types of actions.

The first group of actions highlight the highest priority tasks that should be considered for implementing as soon as resources are available. Since it is not possible to implement every action in this management plan right away, it is important to show those actions that are critical to the successful implementation of the plan.

The second group of actions require a specific task or project highlight items and will require staff resources or a budget. These are divided into resource management actions and recreation/communications actions.

The third group of actions require on-going or monitoring types of tasks, are reviewed regularly to ensure that on-going tasks are being carried out and that the spirit and intentions of this management plan are being followed. These are also placed within resource management actions and recreation/communications actions.

Within the implementation section, actions are listed in the order in which they appear in the text. The charts are not intended to "rank" actions in order of importance of one action over another. However, within each section of this plan where the full action statement is presented, a rough rank of importance is given to the actions by the order in which they appear. As such, the first action listed in the Vegetation Section is generally more important to do before the second or third action and so on. However, this is a rough guide only because the ability to carry out an action can depend on many factors such as, available funding or staff, time restrictions, need for other agencies to be involved, and dependency on other actions or information.

Implementation - Highest Priorities		
Keywords	**Task or Project Oriented Actions**	**Page**
Local Advisory Group	Coordinate the establishment of a local advisory group (e.g. Naikoon Advisory Committee) comprising volunteers from local communities and representing a variety of interests to assist in the on-going stewardship of Naikoon. The intent of forming this group is to develop and maintain strong links between BC Parks and the Island community. The group of volunteers can assist in such ways as: alerting BC Parks of upcoming issues; providing local expertise, knowledge, and perspectives on planned management initiatives; and, assisting in the development of interpretation and communication strategies. The group can have a significant effect on the success of education campaigns about wise use of Naikoon and protection of important values and features.	23
Co-operative Agreements	Develop cooperative management arrangements with the Haida concerning the planning, management and operation of Naikoon. Where formal agreements are not in place, maintain communication links with Haida councils.	24
Historic Access Corridor	Remove the historic access corridor from Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, while ensuring that the corridor remains part of Naikoon Park. Once part of Naikoon Park, define the historic corridor for vehicle access. BC Parks will work with the local volunteer group (see Relationship with Local Residents section) and the four-wheel drive club to develop strategies to ensure people keep to the designated route in order to avoid damaging sensitive habitat and dune vegetation communities.	42
Ecological Reserve Management Plans	Prepare, in cooperation with the Haida and with involvement of the local volunteer group, management plans for Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves. The management plans provide long term management strategies to ensure the cultural and ecological integrity of the reserves.	42

Keywords	Implementation - Project or Actions On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Public Updates	Provide periodic updates to the public about on-going management initiatives, special projects, or interesting information relating to Naikoon. This can be done either through the use of local media sources or by prepared newsletters. The intent is to keep the Island community informed about the year to year management of Naikoon. An advisory group for Naikoon can play a significant role in this initiative.	24
Incorporate Haida Culture	Develop ways with the Haida to incorporate Haida language and cultural symbols in interpretive and other kinds of information about Naikoon.	25
Evaluate Tow Hill Ecological Reserve	Evaluate Naikoon to determine if there is a more appropriate site to represent the same features found within the Tow Hill Ecological Reserve. The current reserve site is bisected by a road and is affected by recreation use. Another site is an option since this reserve is representative of habitat found elsewhere in Naikoon.	40
Beaver Study	If feasible, undertake a study to determine how beaver are affecting waterways and their associated ecosystems (see Wildlife Management section).	43
Fire Management Strategies	Control major fire and insect infestations that threaten rare and unique vegetation communities, commercial forests or developments outside of Naikoon, or facilities. As guided by current policy, all fires will be subject to initial attack either by Ministry of Forests or BC Parks. Once the likely effects of the fire are assessed (based upon such information as its intensity, the current environmental conditions, and its likely path and range), a decision is made whether or not to allow the fire to run its natural course. This applies to the Wilderness Recreation Zone. Within other zones, all fires will be suppressed. Insect infestations that could lead to epidemic proportions and threaten important resources outside Naikoon will be controlled using low impact, site specific methods. A management plan (see 3rd action statement) will define fire management strategies.	44

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Dune Vegetation	Monitor and study dune forest vegetation to determine effects of grazing and recreation use. Methods may include permanent sample plots with regular photographic documentation and sampling and construction of experimental exclosures. Sites within the Ecological Reserves are a high priority for this type of study.	45
Risks of Introduced Species	Communicate to appropriate authorities of concerns about the potential risks associated with introducing species to the Island and the need for public awareness and strategic planning to deal with this issue.	45
Prepare Habitat Suitability/ Capability	Use available vegetation mapping (completed in 1992) to prepare habitat suitability and capability mapping[4] for: 1) naturally occurring wildlife species that are threatened, rare or sensitive; and, 2) introduced species that may affect natural processes and populations. This project will indicate the types of wildlife habitat that is available, or potentially available, but does not indicate the actual presence of wildlife species.	46
Inventory Species	Use the habitat suitability and capability mapping information to undertake an inventory of species. The highest priorities for inventory work are: 1) native species that are most threatened, rare, or sensitive; and, 2) introduced species that threaten natural ecological processes or populations.	47
Wildlife Management Plan	Develop a wildlife management plan which describes species-specific management strategies with reference to the vegetation management plan. The highest priority is to develop beaver management strategies because of their effect on salmonid habitat. A beaver management project will define experimental strategies and implement them on a trial basis to determine their success. Information from this project will help define beaver management strategies. BC Parks will seek support and cooperation for this project from the Haida Fisheries Branch, the Haida Forestry Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch.	47

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Research	Contact western universities about their possible interests for research in Naikoon. The intent is to encourage research related to the conservation and monitoring of natural features and processes in Naikoon. BC Parks will support the proprietary aspects of intellectual knowledge at all times and will ensure that any institutions welcomed into Naikoon by BC Parks respect this as well.	47
Fisheries Assessment	Undertake, with cooperation and support from the Haida Fisheries Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch, a fisheries assessment for specified rivers in Naikoon. This assessment will be used to determine spawning and escapement numbers and this information will be used in preparing a fisheries management plan. It is unrealistic to expect that all rivers will be assessed. Therefore, rivers will need to be ranked to determine which have fish populations most at risk. Ranking will consider factors affecting the fishery, including: 1) effects from human fisheries; 2) effects from beaver activity, and ; 3) water quality and spawning capability.	48
Fisheries Management Plan	Prepare a fishery management plan in conjunction with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch. The plan will assess current angling harvest numbers and determine acceptable quotas. The plan will also outline priorities for studies including the on-going monitoring of clam beds and stream rehabilitation and fisheries enhancement for streams damaged by beaver activity.	48
Information for Physiographic Processes	Provide information in the frontcountry (Intensive Recreation Zone) explaining physiographic processes such as those relating to formations of dunes and of Rose Spit-Naii Kun.	49
Roads	Work with the Ministry of Highways to ensure that, as roads in Naikoon are maintained or improved, the scenic character of the roads is retained.	50
Archaeological Assessment	Undertake an archaeological assessment study in conjunction with the Haida to increase knowledge of ancient and historical village sites. To ensure that location projects do not expose the sites to uses inconsistent with the wishes of the Haida.	52

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Zoning	Important Haida sites will be protected by designating them as Special Features Zones (see Zoning section).	52
Document Histories	Assist in the documentation of memorabilia, photographs, and written and oral histories on the activities and affects associated with the early colonial period, including the relationship between immigrants, their children and the Haida.	51
Agate Beach Trail	Investigate a possible short trail to be developed near the Agate Beach campground that would provide interpretive opportunities related to Naikoon's wetlands.	58
Visitor Awareness	Work with the Old Massett Village Council to increase visitor awareness that their Reserves are not part of Naikoon.	60
Boating	Apply to establish a boat motor size restriction for Mayer Lake.	62
Agate Beach Interpretive Trail	Investigate the development of an interpretive trail near the Agate Beach campground in order for people to be able to visit and learn about a portion of Naikoon's wetland ecosystem.	63
Nature Study Guide	Develop a nature study guide for Naikoon's natural resources and features (see Communications section).	63
Road Aesthetics	Work with BC Highways to establish management guidelines for Tow Hill Road and Beitush Road which protects the roads' unique scenic character. BC Parks supports those upgrading plans which minimizes the alterations or removal of trees alongside of the current road surface.	65
Management through Reserve	Work with the Old Massett Village Council regarding the management of the road through the Hiellen Reserve.	65
Courtesy Beach	Identify South Beach as a "courtesy beach" where, during the summer months the primary using is recognized for non-motorized activities such as picnicking and beach walking. Although vehicles are allowed below high tide line, people will be asked to avoid driving South Beach during the summer months as much as possible. This courtesy beach is voluntary and intended to acknowledge interests of both vehicle users and non-vehicle users. Information signs will be posted.	67

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Volunteer Reporting	Establish a method with the local volunteer group and the four-wheel drive club to establish a method for citizens to "observe, record, and report" people who abuse the use of vehicles in Naikoon. This will provide a means for people who use the are to become effective guardians in protecting the natural values of Naikoon.	68
Seasonal Ranger	Provide a seasonal ranger to be based at the north end of Naikoon as funding allows. Rangers will be involved with educating visitors about how to use Naikoon without damaging natural features, maintain facilities, monitor perimeters and contractors, and collecting resource information.	70
Tlell Headquarters' Plan	Develop a plan for how to best use a portion of Naikoon's headquarters in Tlell for visitor information.	77
Communications Strategy	Develop a communications strategy for Naikoon which incorporates the *Regional Interpretation and Information Plan* prepared by BC Parks in 1989. Communication themes will address the importance of Naikoon and its Ecological Reserves as protected areas as well as the main cultural and natural themes. BC Parks will work with the local volunteer group and the Haida in developing a communications strategy that will consist of information, interpretation (including interpretive trails), education, outreach programs, and community relations.	79
Education Guide	In cooperation with the Haida, develop an educational guide to Naikoon which outlines activities relevant to Naikoon's natural and cultural themes for students and teachers. In conjunction with preparing this guide, develop strategies for integrating information about Naikoon into Island schools.	79
Nature Guide	Work with the Island volunteer group and the Haida to prepare a nature guide for Naikoon.	79

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Tlell Fall Fair	Recognize the Tlell Fall Fair as a significant event of which Naikoon can play an important role. The traditional area of Naikoon used annually for the fair will continue to be provided and BC Parks will work cooperatively with the Graham Island Farmers Institute towards the continued success of the fair. The institute will have first priority in terms of scheduling for the Tlell Fall Fair. BC Parks will investigate proposals for cooperatively developed structures that will benefit community interests and BC Parks.	23
Cultural Activities	Acknowledge historic and contemporary living cultural activities in Naikoon, such as hunting, food gathering and access to village sites.	24
Haida Culture	Ensure that BC Parks has support from the Haida prior to preparing, releasing or displaying any information relating to Haida culture or history.	24
Staff Hiring	Ensure that when information about staff hiring for Naikoon is sent out, that such information is also available to Haida communities.	25
Ecological Reserves	BC Parks will inform the public of the intent of Ecological Reserves and that they are not intended for recreational use.	42
Sensitive Sites	Manage important and sensitive sites with a high degree of interest for protection as described in the Vegetation, Wildlife, and Physiography sections of this plan.	42
Sanitary Facilities	Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.	43
Forestry Impacts	Work cooperatively with forest companies, the Haida Forestry Branch, and the Ministry of Forests to minimize negative effects from logging on water resources flowing into Naikoon from adjacent areas.	43

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Dune Processes	Allow natural dune processes and vegetation patterns to continue with minimal disturbance from recreation use. Public education and awareness and local cooperation will be key for this success. This is particularly important for the dunes within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.	44
Forestry Impacts	Maintain close communication with forest operators adjacent to Naikoon in terms of how their operations might affect Naikoon's forests in the boundary area.	45
Habitat Diversity	Maintain open meadow patches, as funding is available, in a portion (less than 2 hectares) of the Misty Meadows area and the Tlell Fall Fair area in order to maintain habitat diversity as well as recreation and cultural values. This "interference" in a forest succession is compatible with the objectives for the campground/day use area covered by the Intensive Recreation Zone. Most of the Misty Meadows area would be allowed to revert back to forest cover.	45
Wildlife Trees	Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, Naikoon's facilities, or anywhere in Naikoon where staff must conform to Workers Compensation Board regulations.	45
Important Habitat	Ensure important habitat, such as nesting sites, are protected through public education, regulations and enforcement. Particular attention will be given to the habitat within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.	47
Hunting	Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch in managing hunting opportunities in Naikoon for specific introduced species as identified in the regulations.	47
Wildlife Trees	Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, or Naikoon's facilities. Tree snags may be removed in any area of Naikoon for the safety of staff as directed by the Workers Compensation Board.	47

Keywords	Implementation - Maintenance On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Angling	Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Federal Department of fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.	48
Fisheries Issues	Work in cooperation with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Freshwater Sport Fishery Advisory Board (S.F.A.B.), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to deal with on-going issues relating to angling.	48
Tlell River	Work with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii S.F.A.B., the Tlell Watershed Society, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that the current Class 2 classification for the Tlell River is maintained.	49
Fisheries Issues	Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking. Since salmonid populations may be threatened by beaver activities, habitat enhancement to return habitat to natural conditions and stocking of salmonid species may be considered for any zone within Naikoon.	49
Dune Sensitivity	Minimize human interference in natural physiographic processes such as dune formation, stabilization and "blowouts". This will be achieved through public education, cooperative efforts with local resident groups, enforcement of *Park Act Regulations*, and exclosures if necessary. Particular attention will be given to the dune formations within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.	49
Private Developments	In conjunction with BC Parks' priorities for the purchase of inholdings, consideration will be given to how private developments on inholdings could affect the natural scenic values of Naikoon.	50
Recreation Use	Manage recreation use in conjunction with Naikoon's zoning so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally affected.	50
Recreation Use	Develop strategies to minimize effects from recreation use on sand dunes and beach areas (see Outdoor Recreation Section).	50

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Historic Trails	Work to develop strategies for addressing the remnants of the colonial period, especially historic trails.	52
57	57	57
Beach Erosion	Monitor erosion of the Agate Beach campground frontage. If the campground is threatened, investigate an alternative location for a replacement campground. Also, investigate jointly with the Old Massett Village Council, establishing camping facilities on the Hiellen and Yakan Point "Indian Reserves".	57
Camping	Monitor uses of the area used for group camping and community events to determine if there are significant conflicts. If conflicts become a serious issue, investigate other possible sites for a group campground.	57
Trails	Ensure that trail maintenance and use, both authorized and unauthorized, does not impact in a negative way on Old Massett Reserves and cultural sites.	58
Trails	Maintain the current trails up to the Tow Hill viewpoint, to areas below Tow Hill, to the Pesuta shipwreck, using boardwalks where protection of the ground surface is necessary.	58
Beach Walking	Establish certain areas for frontcountry beach walking opportunities during the warmer months which are free of vehicles (see Access Strategy section).	58
Dune Sensitivity	Protect the dune environment adjacent to the Misty Meadows campground of vehicles (see Access Strategy section).	58
Hiking Information	Maintain established rustic facilities along East Beach for hikers and backpackers and ensure that visitors have appropriate safety and survival information to plan their trip (see Communications section).	60
Hiking Information	Ensure hikers are informed about using the defined route through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve or following the beach around the spit in order to avoid sensitive habitat within the reserve.	60
Trails	Maintain the Cape Fife Trail in order to minimize affects on the natural environment.	60

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Sport Fishing	Continue to work in cooperation with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Fish and Wildlife Branch, and the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Freshwater Sport Fisheries Advisory Board to manage sport fishing in Naikoon. The Tlell, Hiellen, Cape Ball, and Oeanda Rivers are the most important to monitor because they are the most frequented fisheries. Mayer Lake will also be monitored for angling activity to ensure that the regulations are in keeping with the conservation objectives for Naikoon.	61
Hunting	Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the Conservation Service Officer to regulate hunting activities to ensure public safety and healthy populations.	61
Hunting	Continue to honour traditional hunting rights of the Haida as they may apply in Naikoon.	62
Docks	Maintain small dock at south end of Mayer Lake.	62
Horse Use	Allow responsible horse use in Naikoon. Work with people who take their horses into Naikoon to ensure that they keep out of the campground areas and that effects from horse use are not detrimental to Naikoon. Horses will be kept to the designated route while passing through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Monitor this activity to ensure conservation objectives are not being affected and close if damage occurs.	62
Trails	Monitor the condition of the trails for any signs of damage from mountain biking and keep a record of complaints about the use. If necessary, close trails to mountain biking to protect the trail environment or safety of hikers.	62

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Recreational Guiding	Assess proposals for recreation guiding for how they affect the conservation and recreation goals of Naikoon. Recreation guiding may be acceptable on a limited basis where the activity does not conflict with conservation objectives, or with other visitors, and the activity does not degrade the natural environment. Only low impact, non-consumptive recreation guiding operations will be considered. Examples that might be considered include: sightseeing tours; guided hiking and birdwatching; cultural/history tours; and, horse trips.	63
Vehicle Use	Decline applications for any proposal using vehicles on the beaches, for helicopter access, or for guided hunting.	63
Guided Angling	Proposals for guided angling may be considered if: 1) there is sufficient biological information that indicates that the activity will not degrade the natural fish populations; 2) that the Haida Fisheries Branch, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch each recommend approval; 3) there are limited conflicts with the sport fishing public; and, 4) that the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Sport Fishery Advisory Board recommends approval of the application.	63
Special Needs	Incorporate, where possible, facility standards for special needs people in the management of Naikoon's frontcountry with consideration to what is available for special needs people in a regional context.	64
Trails/Roads	Continue to allow the "road to nowhere" to revert back to forest, allowing for opportunities for short walks through the forest.	65
Vehicle Beach Use	Maintain beaches as open to vehicles below the high tide line. Define the historic access corridor connecting North Beach with East Beach as a vehicle corridor under the *Park Act*, once the corridor is removed from the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Two sections of beaches are identified as "closed to vehicles" during the period from June 1 to August 15. The two areas are: 1) Agate Beach; and, 2) the Tlell beach located from the Tlell River mouth south to the southeast corner of Naikoon.	67

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Vehicle Beach Use	Work with the Haida, the Naikoon Advisory Committee and the four-wheel drive club to deal with vehicle beach use issues should they arise. The intent is for the group and BC Parks to develop on-going management strategies as needed that are supportable by local residents. For example, the closure dates will be reviewed periodically to determine if they need to be adjusted. As well, a periodic review will be conducted on BC Parks' ability to administer and implement these strategies and the effectiveness of the overall vehicle management objective.	68
Vehicle Beach Use	Work with the Haida, the Naikoon Advisory Committee and the four-wheel drive club to develop specific initiatives to inform and increase awareness about vehicle use etiquette for Naikoon. The intent is to encourage all vehicle users to avoid sensitive areas such as the dunes and bird habitat of the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, beach grass ecosystems, and the Tlell River crossing at certain times of the year. Initiatives might include a pamphlet, school programs, public meetings, and advertisements and articles in the Observer. This initiative is particularly important for young drivers and tourists who are new to beach driving. In this way, all people who use Naikoon can play an important role in its stewardship.	68
Dune Sensitivity	Monitor the dunes and habitat in the Rose Spit area to determine if damaging uses are continuing. In addition, monitor other areas on Naikoon to determine the effects of recreational use on natural values and conservation objectives established in this management plan. Also develop, with the local volunteer group, means to mitigate the damage and to better protect sensitive sites.	68
Fish and Shellfish	Monitor the effects on clam beds caused by vehicle users travelling Naikoon's beaches below the natural tide line.	49
Vehicle Beach Use	Ensure that the public is adequately informed of the hazards associated with beach driving, and that only experienced and well prepared people should undertake the activity.	68
Tourist Information	Work with Island tourism associations and communities in providing appropriate pre-trip planning information.	77

Implementation - Maintenance		
Keywords	**On-going and Monitoring Actions**	**Page**
Tourist Information	Ensure brochures and handouts on Naikoon remain current and accurate.	77
Information Signage	Provide safety and information signs where needed in the Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment zones.	77
Information Signage	Maintain the natural character of the Wilderness Recreation Zone by limiting signs to cases where they are necessary for the safety of visitors or for the protection of sensitive sites.	77
Tourist Information	Continue to work with Island tourism associations, the Haida, Chambers of Commerce, Parks Canada, and communities in providing regional tourism and outdoor recreation information.	77

Appendix A

BC Parks Zoning

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Mechanized (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-mechanized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycle). Aircraft and motor-boat access to drop-off and pick-up points will be permitted.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.
Size of Zone	Small; usually less than 2,000 ha	Can range from small to large.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialized activities.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Generally low.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Various; may require special access permit.	Non-mechanized; except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanized (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.	Remote; generally not visited on a day-use basis.	Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Small; usually less than 2,000 ha.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.
Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access. Will be designated under the *Park Act*.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Will be designated under the *Park Act*.
Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g. caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (caving, climbing).

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trails, accommodation or interpretive buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service campgrounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters; accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorized access (e.g. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.)
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Areas where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.
Management Guidelines	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and to providing a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski areas in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North Beach in Naikoon Park.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Interpretive facilities only, resources are to be protected.	Minimal facility development. Limited development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment (e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc.) Some basic facilities at access nodes, (e.g. dock, primitive shelter, etc.)	None.
None; resources to be maintained unimpaired.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
High level of management protection with on-going monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretive experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Tidepools in Botanical Beach Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Central Valhallas Wilderness in Valhalla Park; Garibaldi Park Nature conservancy area.

Appendix B

Legal Description of Naikoon and Ecological Reserves

Approved and ordered this 14th day of August, A.D. 19 73.

Lieutenant-Governor.

At the Executive Council Chamber, Victoria,

PRESENT:

The Honourable in the Chair.

Mr. Barrett
Mr. Radford
Mr. Hall
Mr. Macdonald
Mr. Sturdy
Mr. Pimsick
Mr. Strachan
Mr. King
Mrs. Dailly
Mr. Cocke
Mr. Levi
Mr. Lea
Miss Young
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

To His Honour

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council:

The undersigned has the honour to report:

THAT Order-in-Council #83, approved January 13, 1948, established Tow Hill Provincial Park as a Provincial Park Class A;

AND THAT Order-in-Council #1299, approved June 9, 1959 established Tlell Provincial Park as a Provincial Park Class A;

AND THAT Naikoon Provincial Park was established as a Provincial Park Class A by Statute on April 17, 1973, under Schedule B of the Park Act;

AND THAT Tow Hill Provincial Park and Tlell Provincial Park are within the boundary of Naikoon Provincial Park;

AND THAT Provincial Parks established by Statute have a greater protection than and take precedence over Provincial Parks established by Order-in-Council;

AND TO RECOMMEND THAT under the authority of the Park Act, Order-in-Council #83, approved January 13, 1974, and Order-in-Council #1299, approved June 9, 1959, be rescinded.

DATED this 13 day of Aug 1973, A.D.

Jack Radford
Minister of Recreation and Conservation

APPROVED this 13 day of AUG 1973, A.D.

Presiding Member of the Executive Council

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2-5-1-12
2-5-1-117

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE B

NAIKOON PARK

All Crown lands within that parcel or tract of land, together with all that foreshore or land covered by water, situated on Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Land District, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point on the natural boundary of Hecate Strait, said point being the south-east corner of Lot 60, Queen Charlotte District; thence westerly along the southerly boundary of Lot 60 to the most southerly south-east corner of Lot 1354; thence westerly and northerly along the southerly and westerly boundaries of Lot 1354 to the north-easterly limit of the right-of-way for the public road between Queen Charlotte City and Masset; thence north-westerly along said north-easterly limit to the southerly boundary of Lot 1351; thence westerly and northerly along the southerly and westerly boundaries of Lot 1351 to the north-easterly limit of the right-of-way for the public road between Queen Charlotte City and Masset; thence north-westerly along said north-easterly limit to its intersection with the easterly boundary of Lot 407; thence northerly along said easterly boundary to the south-west corner of Lot 381; thence northerly and easterly along the westerly and northerly boundaries of Lot 381 to the north-east corner thereof; thence northerly along the westerly boundaries of Lots 383, 387, and 389 to the southerly boundary of Lot 480; thence westerly and northerly along the southerly and westerly boundaries of Lot 480 to the southerly boundary of Lot 479; thence westerly, northerly, and easterly along the southerly, westerly, and northerly boundaries of Lot 479 to the south-east corner of Lot 397; thence northerly along the easterly boundary of Lot 397 to the most southerly south-east corner of Lot 398; thence northerly and easterly along the easterly and southerly boundaries of Lot 398 to the south-west corner of Lot 398a; thence easterly and northerly along the southerly and easterly boundaries of Lot 398a to the south-west corner of Lot 769; thence northerly along the westerly boundaries of Lots 769, 768, and 767 to the north-west corner of Lot 767; thence easterly along the northerly boundaries of Lots 767 and 788 to the south-west corner of Lot 2139; thence northerly along the westerly boundaries of Lots 2139, 2138, 2133, 2134 to the south-west corner of Lot 2129; thence easterly along the southerly boundaries of Lots 2129, 2130, and 2131 to the westerly boundary of Lot 1800; thence northerly along the westerly boundaries of Lots 1800, 1789, 1788, and 2289 to the southeast corner of Lot 2290; thence northerly and westerly along the easterly and northerly boundaries of Lot 2290 to the south-east corner of Lot 962; thence northerly along the easterly boundaries of Lots 962, 961, 892, 891, 877, and 873 to the north-east corner of Lot 873; thence westerly along the northerly boundaries of Lots 873 and 872 to the south-west corner of Lot 873; thence northerly along the westerly boundary of Lot 873 to a point on the natural boundary of Dixon Entrance; thence due north a distance of 10 chains; thence north-easterly and southerly along a line drawn parallel to and 10 chains perpendicularly distant from the natural boundaries of Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait to a point due east of the south-east corner of Lot 60; thence due west 10 chains to said south-east corner, being the point of commencement, save and except Indian Reserves 2 and 3 at Tow Hill and Yakan Point respectively and the right-of-way for the highway between Queen Charlotte City and Masset, and containing 179,500 acres, more or less.

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Approved and ordered this 4th day of May , A.D. 1971.

At the Executive Council Chamber, Victoria, Lieutenant-Governor.

PRESENT:

The Honourable in the Chair.

Mr. Black
Mr. Williston
Mr. Peterson
Mr. Shelford
Mr. Richter
Mr. Chabot
Mr. Skillings
Mr. Brothers
Mr. Campbell
Mr. Chant
Mr. Kiernan
Mr. Gaglardi
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

To His Honour

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council:

AMN 9/C 2028/71

The undersigned has the honour to recommend:

THAT under authority of Section 3 of the Ecological Reserves Act being Chapter 16, Statutes of British Columbia, 1971 Lots 1015, 1015A, 1015B and 1016, Queen Charlotte District, containing 426 acres situated on Rose Spit, Graham Island be established an Ecological Reserve.

AND TO FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT this Minute, if approved become effective upon its publication as provided in Section 3 of the Ecological Reserves Act.

DATED this 3rd day of May A.D. 1971.

Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources

APPROVED this 3rd day of May A.D. 1971.

Presiding Member of the Executive Council

File: 0293531

Copy of Minute Approved June 8, 1971 - Lieutenant-Governor

2028

1971360 C

recommend:

THAT Order-in-Council No. 1572 approved May 4th, 1971 be amended by adding after the word "District" in line 3, paragraph one, the words "except from the said lot 1016, Block "A" thereof" and by deleting the figures "426" in line 3, paragraph one and substituting therefore the figures "420.49".

AND TO FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT this Minute if approved become effective upon its publication as provided in Section 4 of the Ecological Reserves Act.

DATED this 7th day of June A.D. 1971.

"Ray Williston"

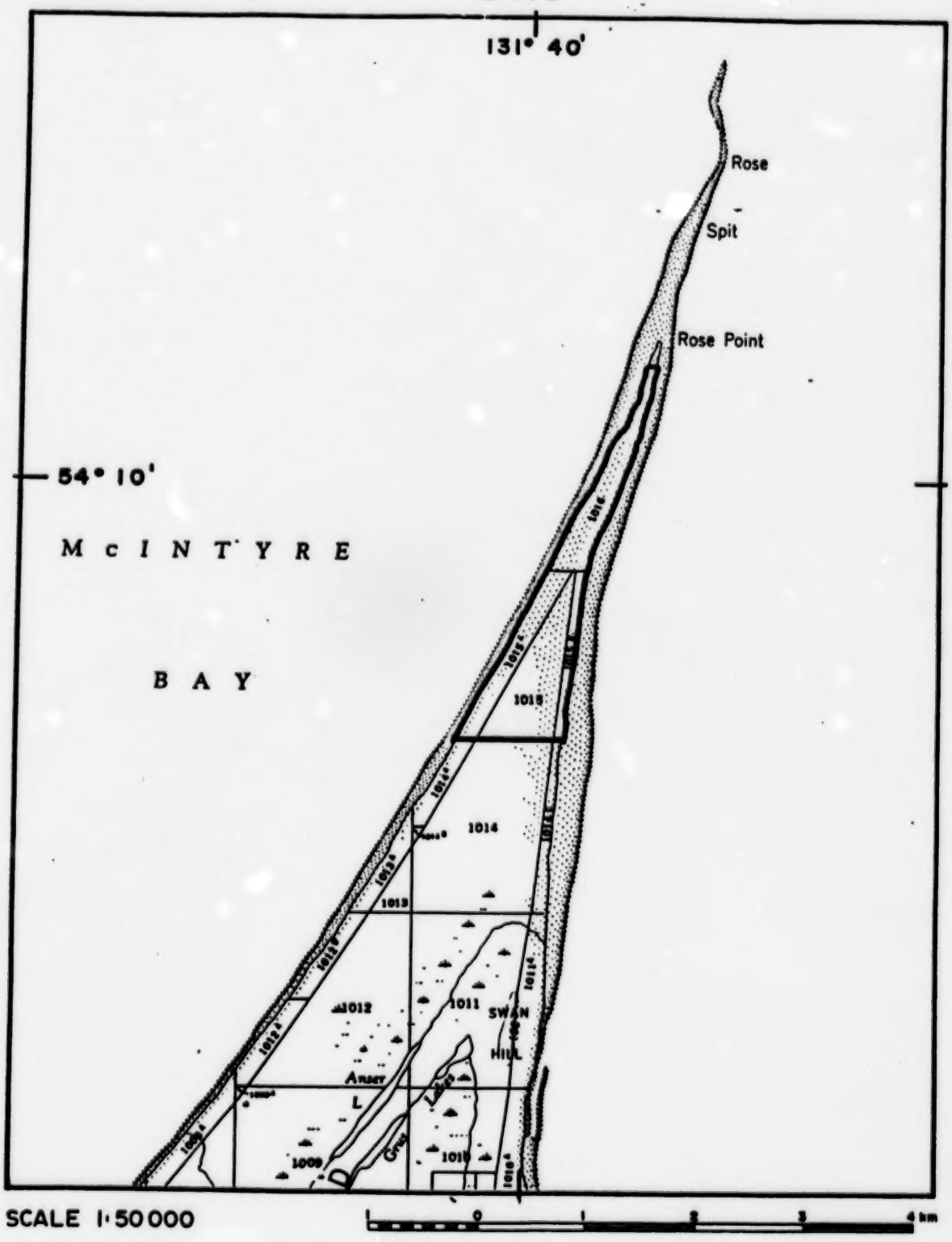
Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources

APPROVED this 7th day of June A.D. 1971.

"W.A.C. Bennett"

Presiding Member of the Executive Council

File: 0293531
CWH/jm



N.T.S. No. 103 J/4

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE No. 10
ROSE SPIT

1571.

6-5-1-161 1571
C129

Approved and ordered this 4th day of May , A.D. 1971.

At the Executive Council Chamber, Victoria,

Lieutenant-Governor.

PRESENT:

The Honourable in the Chair.

Mr. Block
Mr. Williston
Mr. Peterson
Mr. Shelford
Mr. Richter
Mr. Chabot
Mr. Skillings
Mr. Brothers
Mr. Campbell
Mr. Chant
Mr. Kiernan
Mr. Gaglardi
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

To His Honour

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council:

Ann. 792/64

The undersigned has the honour to recommend:

THAT under authority of Section 3 of the Ecological Reserves Act being Chapter 16, Statutes of British Columbia, 1971, Lots 821A, 822A, 824A, Southwest 1/4 of Lot 823A, that part of the Fractional Northwest 1/4 of Lot 823A lying West of the Southerly production of the Easterly boundary of Lot 822A, that part of Lot 447 lying East of the Northerly production of the Westerly boundary of Lot 824A and all that foreshore and land covered by water lying North of Lots 822A and 824A East of the Northerly production of the Westerly boundary of Lot 824A, South of Lot 447 and West of the Southerly production of the Easterly boundary of Lot 447, all in Queen Charlotte District, containing 1270 acres more or less, situated Southwest of Tow Hill, Graham Island be established an Ecological Reserve.

AND TO FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT this Minute, if approved become effective upon its publication as provided in Section 3 of the Ecological Reserves Act.

DATED this 3rd day of May A.D. 1971.

Ray Williston

Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources

APPROVED this 3rd day of May A.D. 1971.

W. N. Chant

Presiding Member of the Executive Council

File: 0294547

CR. 9
6-5-1-144

BRITISH COLUMBIA

792

APPROVED AND ORDERED MAY -2 1984

Lieutenant-Governor

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VICTORIA MAY -2 1984

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that the Ecological Reserve located near Tow Hill, Graham Island established by Order-in-Council 1571, approved May 4, 1971, be reduced by deleting those parts of Lots 822A and 824A, Queen Charlotte District, shown outlined in red on the attached print and containing 4.969 hectare, comprising a 20 metre wide road shown on Ministry of Transportation and Highways plans 51-51-02, 51-51-03 and 51-51-04.

Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing

W. R. Bennett

Presiding Member of the Executive Council

(This part is for administrative purposes and is not part of the Order.) File: 0294547

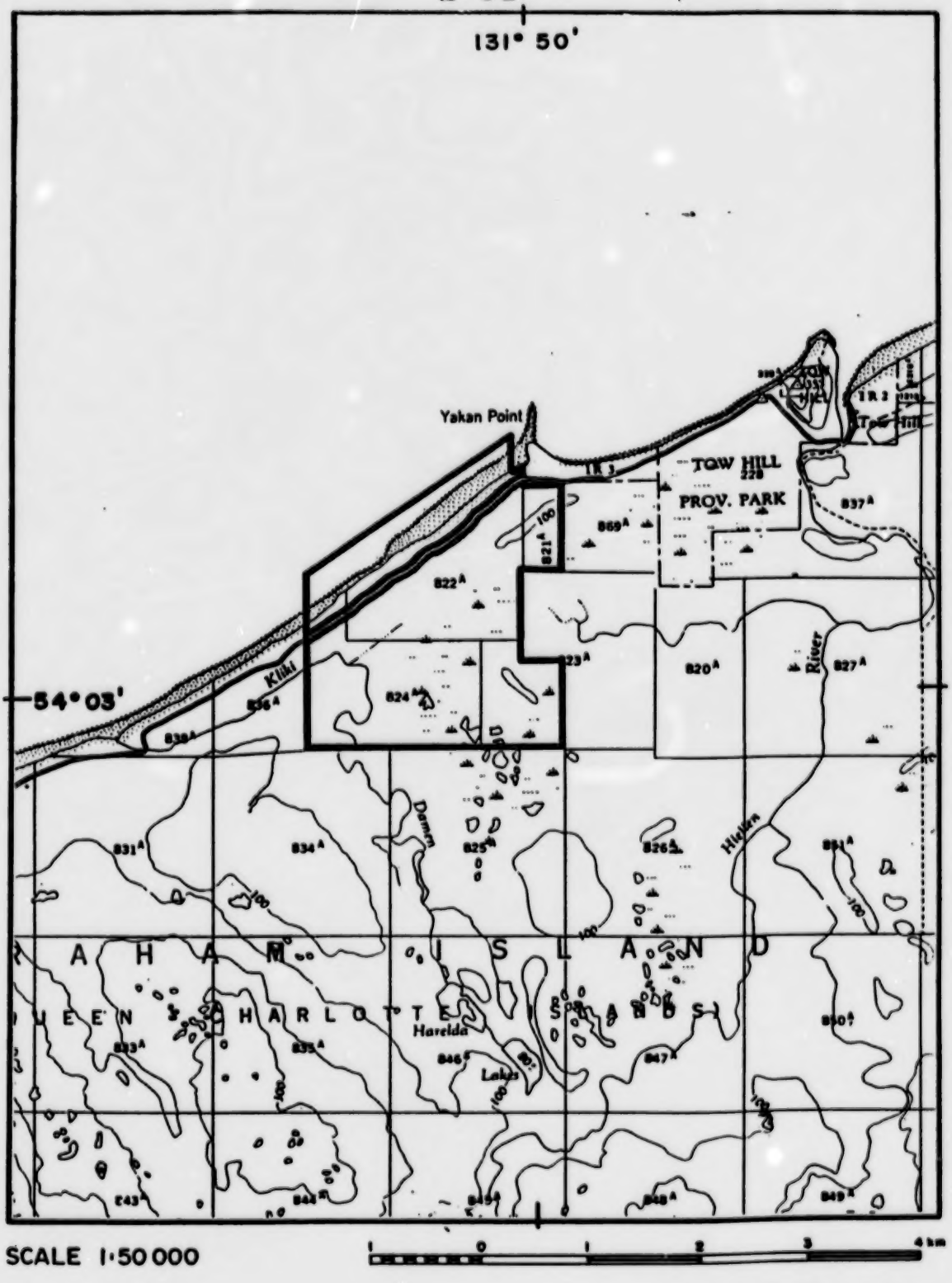
Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: Ecological Reserve Act, Section 4

Other (specify):

Statutory authority checked by: (Signature and typed or printed name of Legal Officer)

633/84



N.T.S. No. 103 J/4

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE No. 9
TOW HILL